

Fire brigade safety call after deaths

Changes in training and operational procedures have been ordered by the London Fire Brigade after the exposure of deficiencies by official reports into the deaths of two firemen last year. One of the reports comments on hasty improvisations by men working to their limits, unsure handling by some officers and 40 different (prima facie) lapses from brigade fire fighting orders.

Opec threat to oil supplies

Western oil companies were last night maintaining a diplomatic silence over an Opec warning that the companies either restore their lifting of crude oil from Nigeria or face cuts in supplies. The Opec move to hold the slide in Nigerian oil prices, was described in London yesterday as possibly the most serious since the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

Well-wisher pays costs

An anonymous well-wisher has paid most of Mrs Mary Whitehouse's £20,000 legal costs in her case against the National Theatre's play, *The Normal Heart*. Mrs Whitehouse, aged 72, dropped her prosecution earlier this month.

Israel defies world opinion

The Israeli Government has defied international criticism of its new security measures in the occupied West Bank with a declaration that "the policy in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will continue without demur".

China jails editor

A Chinese newspaper editor has been jailed for five years for leaking state secrets to foreigners. Official warnings to people to beware of spies among the foreign community, has cast a shadow over the work of foreign correspondents.

Walton surprise on television

Sir William Walton, the elder statesman of British music, has made an unexpected television appearance on the eve of his 80th birthday. He was in London to hear a televised concert featuring his Viola Concerto.

Manpower may lose TUC team

TUC leaders may give up their three seats on the Manpower Services Commission over the Government's plan to cope with rising youth unemployment by making all school leavers aged 16 "trainees" with a £25 a week allowance.

Spitfire lost with pilot

Captain Jack Malloch, a prominent Zimbabwe businessman and wartime flying ace, was killed when a Spitfire Mark II he was piloting crashed during a filming session at Goronzozi, east of Salisbury. The cause of the crash was not known.

Shuttle due this evening

The space shuttle Columbia is due to land in New Mexico at 20.27 GMT today barring dust storms or a last-minute hitch. NASA officials said the mission had been a complete success.

Sport violence

Hooliganism on the field will only cause hooliganism on the terraces, Mr Walker Johnson, Labour MP for Derby, South, said after clashes in the Rotherham v QPR match.

Investigation launched into Heathrow sabotage

Police and airline security officials started an investigation yesterday after 20 tractor-catering vehicles and loading vans belonging to British Airways were sabotaged at Heathrow airport.

The fuel and oil was turned to jelly and an airport official said people could have been killed because hydraulic systems could have collapsed. The vehicles are currently being driven by airline management volunteers and

Secret strike ballots threatened by Tebbit

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Government is seriously considering changes to its Employment Bill now going through Parliament to compel trade unions to hold secret strike ballots.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, told the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate on Saturday that there were "nasty creatures" in the labour movement and it was the Government's task to stamp on them.

Amendments providing for compulsory secret ballots in trade union affairs have already been tabled by three Conservative backbenchers on the committee examining the Bill, and the Employment Secretary said he was listening very carefully to what they were saying.

Mr Tebbit said: "The public will not indefinitely tolerate the sort of goings on which we see on our television screen of the way strike meetings are held. You do not know who is there and who is not."

"In some cases, there is no protection against outsiders coming in to vote, or indeed to intimidate — things of that sort which are thoroughly disgraceful."

In the first instance, it was up to union members themselves to reform their unions from inside, he argued.

"Some have been reformed while others are still a disgrace. I have not given up hope that we can make more progress on that basis, but I have considerable hesitations about introducing a law which could be deliberately defied by trade unions."

Having said that, I am still listening very carefully indeed to what some of my

colleagues say and the arguments put forward that we should consider taking a further step at this stage. "I have not yet been persuaded that we should but, on the other hand, how can I be persuaded finally before I have heard all the arguments?"

Mr Tebbit is under pressure from backbenchers and the Conservative Trade Unionists (CTU) to enact "trigger" provisions requiring unions by law to hold secret ballots on national strikes and for national union posts after January 1, 1985 if they had not already voluntarily changed their rules by then.

The Employment Secretary is reluctant to legislate on the internal affairs of trade unions on the grounds that it would give them an ideal opportunity (carefully excluded from current legislation) to frustrate the working of the law.

He advised the Conservative faithful at Harrogate: "Most strikes in this country are not those we read about in the newspapers. They are those that flare up and do not last long. In many cases, it is the union officials who avoid the strike and many managers, faced with the difficulties of unofficial action, do turn to union officials."

"Strongly as you have heard me speak about what is wrong with our trade union movement, we should not forget that there are within the movement thousands, indeed millions, of responsible men and women, many of them holding office, who are not dedicated to wrecking the economy but doing their best to save it."

Shore blames party not policies

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The electorate would not listen to the Labour Party until its commitment to democratic methods and ends was made plain, Mr Peter Shore said yesterday. In the strongest of several self-critical weekend speeches by Labour's parliamentary leaders, analysing the party's failure in the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election last week, Mr Shore called on the party to pull itself together.

The Hillhead result offered no crumb of comfort for Labour, which had made a maximum effort and been repulsed; they must not complain away the defeat but urgently draw the lessons.

Mr Shore, shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking to a meeting in Worthing, Sussex, of the Labour Solidarity campaign of which he is joint chairman, said there was a great exercise in democratic persuasion to be undertaken. Many aspects of Labour's policies were electorally attractive, but the party was not.

Rebutting arguments used repeatedly by members of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency, and most notably in a speech this month by Mr Pat Wall, who is seeking nomination as Labour parliamentary candidate for Bradford North, Mr Shore said that those who claimed that any socialist government would face violent counter-revolution knew nothing of the history of this country, had no respect for the mass of its citizens, were openly contemptuous of political democracy and had no place inside the Labour Party.

The party's root problem, Mr Shore said, was that they were simply not addressing effectively the majority of the British people, and the capacity to embrace an ever decreasing minority of the electorate was no substitute

for persuading the slightly sceptical majority to vote Labour. The party had a blurred and inaccurate picture of contemporary Britain, which had given rise to "the cult of confrontation" and the revival of old-hat Marxism.

Mr Shore derided the perception of class relationships of too many in the party, who saw Britain as having a structure in which the majority was still denied all rights, oppressed by a nearly omnipotent ruling class and awaiting only the call for a liberation struggle.

That was a picture closer to the 1840s or even the 1920s than to the Britain of today, in spite of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and those who held such a view directed their rhetoric to a rapidly diminishing, traditional working class. They missed altogether the vast changes in occupation since the Second World War, and the whole achievement of organized labour and of Labour's own efforts since the war in improving the conditions of life for individuals.

Mr Shore turned to Mr Wedgwood Benn's defence of the place of Marxism in the Labour Party. He accepted that Marxist thought had had an important place in the party. But what had never been acceptable to democratic socialism in Britain was Marxism-Leninism, the theory of an elite vanguard designed to impose the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Quoting a recent speech of Mr Benn's, he added: "Those who say that they are prepared to tolerate within the Labour Party 'the followers of Leon Trotsky' simply do not understand what the difference between Marxism and Marxism-Leninism really is."

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Action station: A whaling ship (above) lies abandoned in Grytviken harbour, where Argentines have illegally landed to dismantle the Flensing Yard whaling station. The chains (below) were once used for hauling whales from the sea.



Falklands tension grows

By Our Foreign Staff

The Ministry of Defence disclose last night that three Argentine vessels were raised the Argentine flag, South Georgia, the Falkland Islands dependency where a group of Argentines had illegally landed.

The vessels were described as a patrol ship and two missile-carrying corvettes, but no official confirmation was available on reports that two Argentine destroyers had also headed into the south Atlantic.

The Foreign Office said that diplomatic exchanges were continuing in an effort to resolve the crisis. The

Argentine, who had gone to South Georgia to gather scraps from whaling action, raised the Argentine flag. Argentina claims the Falkland Islands but most of the original party of fifty left after British protests. The groups presence was discovered 10 days ago. Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, told journalists during the weekend that the Bahia Paraíso was standing by off South Georgia to protect the Argentines.

The British Ministry of Defence said that it had no exact confirmation of the

vessel's position, but she was certainly not within sight of the Royal Navy patrol ship, HMS Endurance, which was within easy reach.

Endurance would be able to put a party of marines ashore on South Georgia at short notice, but there was no official comment in London on reports that Britain had authorized the use of force if necessary.

The emphasis was very much on diplomacy. It was pointed out that the Endurance would be aware of the diplomatic efforts being made.

Iran involvement in attempted coup emerges at secret trial

From Robert Fisk

The graffiti on the walls of Bab al-Bahrain Street have been carefully doctored. The Arabic words have been painted over with child-like doodles, but just round the corner from the crowded Gold Bazaar, you can quite clearly make out the words "Nizam al-Khalifa" (down with the Khalifa regime) inscribed on the side of a disused shop.

There are black stencil portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini on the walls as well, most of them have been defaced. The Islamic Republic of Bahrain is a concept which the island's ruling dynasty rather naturally wishes to discourage.

Just 12 miles down the coast from Bahrain's futuristic capital, however, the dangers of an Iranian-backed Shia Muslim state on the island are being more seriously debated. In the little village of Jao, 73 men — 13 of them Saudi nationals — are being tried for allegedly planning sabotage operations in Bahrain.

That, at least, is what the indictment claims, though the Khalifa family are well aware that the defendants were preparing a coup d'état, a violent and potentially bloody putsch that would have marked Iran's first successful exportation of its Islamic revolution to the Arabian peninsula.

Shaikh Muhammad bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, the Foreign Minister, is quite blunt about the whole affair. "The plot," he told *The Times*, "was against the Arabism of Bahrain. It was



Shaikh Mubarak Attacks foreign intervention

foreign, non-Arab intervention in our affairs. These people should be punished." And so they probably will be perhaps with death — though Bahrain's Minister of Information goes to some lengths to emphasize that the Khalifa Government is a tolerant regime which will always consider mercy.

A far more sensitive issue for the Bahrainis, however, is the patently obvious — even brazen — involvement of Iran in the planned coup. It is primarily for this reason that the trial of the 73 men which resumed this weekend, has been held largely in secret. Journalists are politely but firmly barred from the proceedings.

Inquiries in Bahrain by *The Times*, however, have established that the court, where the accused are defended by 17 lawyers, has heard evidence that: 1 Almost all those on trial were given arms and guerrilla training in Iran. 2 Most of the weapons found

in carefully-hidden caches in the East Rifaa district of the island last December included Israeli-made Uzzi sub-machineguns, a heavy machinegun, grenades and explosives were all brought into Bahrain from Iran.

3 The Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Bahrain, Mr Hassan Shusari, imported dozens of two-way radio sets for the conspirators under cover of diplomatic immunity.

4 More than 50 Bahraini police informants found with the weapons complete with the Bahraini insignia of crossed swords, were manufactured in Tehran. This was confirmed by the Farsi identification on the back of the "official" police buttons.

5 The conspirators expected military assistance from Iran within three days of the coup; two battalions of Iranian troops were apparently to be landed in the island by sea. One source suggests that the Iranian Navy's British-built hovercraft was to be used in this operation.

Most of the accused are followers of Hojatoleslam Hadi Modaressi, an Iranian Shia prelate who is a member of the Islamic Republican Party in Tehran, and who lived in exile for three years in Bahrain during the Shah's reign. He was sheltered by Shaikh Isa bin Sultan al-Khalifa, the Bahraini ruler, who did not realize that he was secretly building up a range of contacts in the area.

Hojatoleslam Modaressi is now a focus of disaffection for the Shia Arabs of the Gulf, and broadcasts regularly, and angrily to Bahrain over Iranian state radio.

Continued on back page, col 3

Big turnout for elections

Salvador voters defy fighting

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, March 28

Voters shrugged off the danger posed by bitter fighting between Government forces and guerrillas, and turned out in massive numbers to cast their ballots today in what were promised to be El Salvador's first free elections in 50 years.

The capital, San Salvador, woke this morning to the crash of gunfire and the thud of bombs as left-wing guerrillas, who had denounced the elections as a farce, and vowed to disrupt them, launched attacks at nine different points in the city.

A UH1 helicopter gunship sprayed machinegun fire on a guerrilla position in San Antonio, a working-class slum district at the foot of the volcano which overlooks San Salvador, while Government troops fought to flush out the insurgents. The cough of mortars could be heard from the area which is less than a mile from the centre of the capital. Government troops later displayed the bodies of 12 guerrillas killed in the clash.

The guerrilla offensive appeared to have failed almost entirely to achieve its aim of creating an atmosphere of fear which would make voters reluctant to leave their homes.

In El Modelo, another working-class district voters who had been waiting for as long as two hours before polling stations opened, barely flinched when firing erupted down the street leading to the polling station.

On the northern fringe of the capital the Mejicanos district, frequently used by guerrillas in the past weeks to launch attacks, also turned out in large numbers to vote.

Laughter amidst the gunfire

People waiting to vote laughed and chatted with each other as troops and guerrillas exchanged fire on a hill overlooking the area. "Everybody is voting. It's to show that we want peace", said Señor Alfredo Rosa, a 29-year-old carpenter, standing in the doorway of his workshop.

There were similar scenes in market towns on highways leading out of the capital though roads were cut in many places because of fighting.

As the morning wore on, Dr Jorge Bustamante, the chairman of Electoral Commission responsible for organising the poll, went on the radio to declare: "There is not a single polling station which has not telephoned to report long queues of people."

Although El Salvador's tradition of electoral fraud has made it difficult to predict the outcome of today's vote, analysts here suggested that a big turnout favoured the Christian Democrats who won last presidential election held in 1972, only to have victory snatched away from them by them military. The Christian

Democrats' leader, Señor Jose Napoleon Duarte, is president of the civilian-military junta, which will be replaced by a new Government after the 60-member Constituent Assembly being elected today takes office.

Analysts said that, if the turnout reached the 600,000 mark, out of a total electorate estimated at 1.5 million, there was a strong possibility that the Christian Democrats would win an outright majority over the five extreme right-wing parties competing against them.

Hope of government of national unity

The Christian Democrats had already allowed a narrow shaft of sunlight to pierce the dark clouds hanging over the election, by saying over the weekend that they would call for a Government of National Unity committed to seeking a negotiated settlement with the guerrillas, who operate under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

Throughout the election campaign the extreme right-wing parties indicated that they were less interested in a peaceful settlement to a war which has already claimed at least 30,000 lives than they were in launching an all-out offensive against the left.

Nevertheless, with the United States urging them on from the sidelines, the Christian Democrats have said that they will try to impress upon the other parties fighting for office today the need to at least contemplate talks with the left.

The negotiations would form part of a three-sided diplomatic effort, spearheaded by Mexico, to try to engage the United States in a dialogue over the issues currently threatening the stability of the Caribbean and Central America: relations with Cuba and Nicaragua, and the future of the American commitment to El Salvador.

The Christian Democrats' main rival is the National Republican Alliance (ARENA), headed by the demagogic and violent figure of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. If ARENA comes first, but without an overall majority, Major D'Aubuisson is expected to try to form a coalition of other right-wing parties fighting the election, with a view to setting up a new Government.

"The joker in the pack is whether the American Embassy can talk the right into accepting that there's no way it can sell such a Government to United States public opinion without taking the Christian Democrats on board", said an official of Señor Duarte's party, who asked not to be identified because of the violent atmosphere surrounding today's poll.

Anti-American demonstrations, page 3

Leading article, page 7

GOYA

An exhibition of prints from the first published editions of 'Los Desastres de la Guerra' and 'Los Proverbios'.



The horse-abductor. Etching, burnished aquatint and drypoint. Harris 257.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Computer setting for 'The Times'

The Times' editorial pages have been entirely set by computer today for the first time. The Times is the first broadsheet national daily newspaper to have gone over to computer setting.

The first page was set by computer on March 15, 1981, shortly after the newspaper was bought by Mr Rupert Murdoch. Over the last 12 months an increasing number of pages have gone over to the new process.

Printers feed reporters' copy into a computer which then produces columns of type. They are pasted up and photographed to produce a polymer plate from which a printing plate is made.

Mr Tony Norbury, executive production editor, said yesterday: "It is a considerable achievement to have converted the whole of The Times editorial in just over a year without losing an edition."

The classified advertising section of the paper is due for conversion to computer setting by the end of April.

Sons see father shot in Ulster

Inspector Norman Duddy, aged 45, of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was shot dead as he sat in his car with his two teenage sons in Londonderry yesterday a few minutes after they had left church (Our Londonderry Correspondent writes).

Mr Duddy was preparing to drive home with his sons from a road alongside the church when two youths drew up on a motorcycle and opened fire. The policeman, from Londonderry, was dead on arrival at hospital. His sons were not hurt.

Hume says Pope will be safe

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, flew to Rome yesterday for discussions with the Pope about his forthcoming visit to Britain, which is facing growing opposition.

Cardinal Hume said at Heathrow that he did not think the Pope would be in physical danger during his tour.

Bank staff get 9.5%

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union yesterday announced an arbitration pay award of 9.5 per cent for 2,600 staff of Standard Chartered, the largest independent British overseas bank. The union exercised its unilateral right to go to arbitration after rejecting a "final" offer of 7.25 per cent and is now hoping for an award in double figures for staff at Barclays International, where a 13 per cent claim is the subject of arbitration.

Debrett's to go before tribunal

Harold Brooks-Baker, former managing director of Debrett's Peerage, is taking Debrett's before an industrial tribunal claiming wrongful dismissal.

He was dismissed by Mr Ian McCordquodale, who was put in as chairman by the London Trust Investment Company when it bought a 75% holding in Debrett's a year ago.

CORRECTION

In the article, "MPs object to blacks' employment code" on March 24 it should have been stated that much of the objection to the code, which was drawn up by the Commission for Racial Equality, centres on the proposal that firms should count the number of black people in their workforces, not appoint a number.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.28; Bahrain AD 0.650;
Canada Cdn \$1.25; Ceylon 550 mils;
Denmark Dkr 1.25; France Frf 7.00;
Finland Mk 1.00; Germany DM 3.00;
Greece Grd 1.00; Hong Kong HK\$ 1.00;
India Rs 1.00; Italy Lit 1.00;
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Portugal Esc 1.00; Saudi Arabia SR 1.00;
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Turkey Liras 1.00; U.A.E. Dir 1.00;
Yugoslavia Din 1.00

TUC team may quit manpower body as protest

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders may quit their three seats on the Manpower Services Commission in protest at the "reactionary" policies sought by the Government to cope with rising youth unemployment.

Resignation is understood to be under active consideration by Mr Ken Baker, national officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union, Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphic and Allied Trades, and Mr Ken Graham, assistant general secretary of the TUC.

All three are unhappy at the recent direction of commission policy, and the appointment without consultation of a new right-wing chairman, Mr David Young. Their latest cause for concern is a plan to make all school leavers aged 16 into "trainees" for a year with a £25 a week state allowance, which would cut across existing apprenticeship schemes in industry.

Mr Keys said yesterday: "It is our view that the Government are now putting up half-baked schemes, which are effectively aimed at reducing the number of registered unemployed without giving them proper jobs."

Quitting the commission has been considered previously by the TUC team, but it has always been rejected on the ground that the unions had a job to do for the unemployed. Now, however, it is being strongly argued that the credibility of the TUC would be undermined if the unions failed to Cabinet plans to create what is seen as "a pool of cheap youth labour".

Mr Keys said yesterday: "We would only participate in any new scheme if young people will be no worse off than they would be under existing programmes; if there is monitoring to avoid substitution of adult labour; if the scheme has no effect on trade union agreements — particularly rates of pay, and if there is a strong trade union influence."

Ministers will run into difficulties implementing such a scheme in those industries — such as engineering — that already have apprenticeship schemes paying more than this rate, and in traditionally low-paid jobs in service and catering trades where wage rates are statutorily protected by the Wages Councils.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, complained at the weekend that the Government could not abolish wages councils before 1985 because the United Kingdom is bound by an International Labour Organisation convention to retain statutory protection for the low paid.

He told the Conservative Central Council meeting in Harrogate: "These councils are composed of representatives of employers, employees and independents and in the majority of cases the award is unanimous."

"Some of them are putting young people out of work and firms out of business by insisting on shoving wages up to levels that cannot be afforded. I sometimes wonder what the employers' representatives are doing and saying."

Two more weeks for rail inquiry

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Lord McCarthy's investigation into the British Rail "flexible rostering" dispute is expected to take another two weeks, and may then come down in late May and to increase television time before then. The campaign is designed to counter the widely-held belief that flexible rostering is a "bitter" rather than a "butter".

Mr Clifford Rose, British Rail board member for industrial relations, said that if the inquiry into the dispute between the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) and the railway staffs was not completed by the end of the month, it would be likely to visit several locomotive running depots before giving a final verdict on British Rail's proposal to abolish the eight-hour day in favour of flexible hours ranging from seven to nine per shift.

That process could take up to two weeks, and Mr Rose calculated yesterday that the McCarthy report would not be ready before Easter. He remained sanguine that BR's arguments would win over the tribunal.

"We are confident we have made a case, and Lord McCarthy will have a hell of a job to come down against us," he said. "I have every confidence in the case, and that at the end of the day the tribunal will see the logic of it."

But at the weekend Mr Ray Buckton's Aslef general secretary expressed hope that Lord McCarthy would find in favour of the unions for the third successive time by recommending that the train drivers should keep their working agreement, perhaps with a flexibility within the eight-hour day.

Such a formula would enable BR to save some face, but it would effectively be a defeat for Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, and for the much larger and more moderate National Union of Railwaymen, which has accepted flexible rostering for guards.

Slimmers to hear case for butter

By our Medical correspondent

As the butter versus margarine war intensifies, the Butter Information Council has said it plans to begin a magazine advertising campaign in late May and to increase television time before then. The campaign is designed to counter the widely-held belief that margarine is a "bitter" rather than a "butter".

Mr James Morton, the council's chairman, said: "I am amazed that intelligent, educated people think that margarine is a better product for slimmers. It is just not true and cannot be true scientifically for margarine and butter, both being fats, have the same number of calories per ounce."

The campaign will not venture into the vexed question of coronary heart diseases and its relation to unsaturated fats, or into the possible risks of malignant disease being caused by a diet very high in poly-unsaturated fats.

Medical reports, including one from the World Health Organization, are expected soon to recommend a decrease in consumption of saturated fats, but there is caution about advocating any increase in taking poly-unsaturated fats as they have been implicated by circumstantial evidence in an increase in other diseases, particularly malignant disease of the large bowel.



Pearly kings and queens gathering yesterday for the thirtieth walk across Thames bridges in London to raise money for the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation. A number of celebrities took part.

Supervision plea by heads

From Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent, Exeter

The Secondary Heads Association (SHA) appealed to local authorities and the Government yesterday to introduce as a matter of urgency measures to ensure adequate supervision of pupils during the midday break.

The need for such measures has been highlighted during the past few weeks by the chaos caused in schools as teachers refused to supervise pupils at midday as part of a campaign to force their pay claim to arbitration.

Midday supervision appears, legally, to be a voluntary activity, and teachers do not therefore lose any pay if they refuse to undertake that duty. However, the head, acting in loco parentis, remains legally responsible for the safety of pupils while they are on school premises.

Speaking at the annual conference of the SHA in Exeter, Mr Geoffrey Goodall, president of the association, which represents two thirds of all secondary heads, said that the 1963 agreement on lunchtime supervision had become even more rickety with each bout of industrial action or spending cut.

"The head is left alone holding the baby, or babies, sometimes in siege conditions on several sites," he said.

It believed that schools should be provided with sufficient teaching staff to be able to treat midday supervision like a normal class; but that would cost money. Alternatively, a continental school day could be introduced, starting earlier and going through without a midday break until 1.30 or 2pm.

Eleven hundred teachers in Lincolnshire are to continue their industrial action today despite a return to normal working at national level (Our Peterborough Correspondent writes). They are members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. They are demanding the withdrawal of instructions to headmasters during their pay dispute warning teachers taking part in sanctions that their names would be taken for breach of contract.

Thatcher talk lifts supporters' morale

From Ronald Kershaw, Harrogate

Within the space of about 35 minutes, the Prime Minister Saturday banished the Conservative blues of the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election defeat and predicted a return to power at the next general election.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher roundly condemned the Government's opponents for eroding respect for the law and the values by which society lived. She was cheered by more than 2,000 delegates and devotees at a Conservative Party Central Council meeting at Harrogate. As a morale-lifting exercise the occasion was an unqualified success.

Mrs Thatcher dealt with Hillhead and law and order (in which she praised Mr William Whitelaw, our distinguished Home Secretary) the EEC, where she forecast "another budget battle ahead", and Britain's defence policy and disarmament.

The true lesson of Hillhead, the Prime Minister said, was that the voters had counted the cost but had not yet begun to glimpse the prize. "Voters who knew only too well the hard facts of life were offered easy solutions and a comfortable way out of the nation's problems by people who ought to have known better."

She went on: "It is indeed very beguiling just at the moment when some begin to wonder whether the sacrifices are going to be worth while. Hillhead was the verdict of the voters on sacrifices. They have yet to vote on success."

Mrs Thatcher made it clear that at the forefront of her policies was the restoration of the old values and standards of society. "Over these two past decades and more you and I have watched all these standards steadily and deliberately vilified, ridiculed and scorned. For years there was no respect, no reply. The time for counter attack is long overdue."

She applauded Mr Whitelaw's measures for extending the powers of the police, toughening the detention centre regime and reinstating the prison-building programme.

Mrs Thatcher expressed concern at the EEC becoming a source of controversy and the benefits of membership. She pointed out what had been achieved in strengthening political ability and parliamentary democracy in Europe. She referred to last week's refund of £813m and said: "All that was negotiated by us, not the Labour Party."

Statement urged on tip

From Jonathan Wills, Edinburgh

Dr Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh, East, has demanded a public statement on the hazard from poisonous and explosive chemicals stored on a city waste tip which exploded eight days ago.

He said yesterday that the tip at Craigmillar should be closed and all dangerous waste removed, even though it would be a "huge, costly and potentially dangerous job".

Barrels of explosive chemicals, oxidizing agents and poisons, including antimony and arsenic sulphide, were sealed in a concrete bunker in 1970 when a derelict fireworks factory was levelled to make way for a domestic housing tip.

On the site left a crater 40ft deep and 90ft across, and showered debris over a housing estate of 20,000 people. The site is sealed off by firemen and police.

Dr Strang, who visited the tip, said he had not realized there were still large quantities of dangerous chemicals there.

He is disturbed that chemicals could get into water courses and the Firth of Forth and that the wind could carry pollution into Edinburgh.

Dr Strang said he had been assured that initial tests showed no arsenic or antimony present in the housing estate, but he said he had seen the reports and called for a public statement.

Amnesty inquiry is sought

By Lucy Hodges

The trouble at the British section of Amnesty International looked likely to continue yesterday after call from a new council member for an inquiry into its affairs.

The plea came from Mrs Linda Howe, who represents East Anglia on the 26-member council which is now reduced to six after Saturday's resignation. Her call was made amid dark hints that outside organizations may have been conspiring to undermine the organization.

Mrs Howe, who resigned from the old council on February 27 over the choice of Mr Jeremy Thorpe as director, was re-elected at the British Section's annual meeting in south London on Saturday.

In a formal statement to the press she said she refused to speculate publicly on the nature of the evidence which would be given to such an inquiry.

She said that the vote of no confidence in the council in the wake of the dispute over the appointment of Mr Thorpe concerned responsibility rather than culpability.

The newly formed council will be working as a team together with Janet Johnstone (the new director), the membership and groups".

Allegations about outside intervention in the British Section of Amnesty are not new. Organizations being mentioned are the CIA and BOSS, the South African secret police.

Miss Janet Johnstone: new director.

Science report

Galaxies which lead to oblivion

By The Staff of "Nature"

Galaxies, those "island universes" as the late Sir James Jeans once called them, come in many shapes and sizes. Stars cluster in these slowly-turning islands, with vast spaces between one island and the next.

The contemplation of them, in their slow drift away from one another in the expansion of the universe, is said to have led Sir James to religion.

Nowadays evidence is accumulating that these islands are even more spectacular than Sir James imagined: at the centre of each may be a massive, compact object which steadily swallows matter in oblivion.

The latest evidence comes from the close observation of a Seyfert galaxy. Such galaxies have very bright, hot nuclei, and are in many ways similar to quasars — which are themselves probably early galactic nuclei. Seyferts may, in fact, be old quasars but they are easier to observe because they are generally closer.

The Seyfert in question was NGC1068 and it was observed with a technique called "speckle interferometry" by a group from the University of Manchester, the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories (Jodrell Bank) and Imperial College, London, using the Anglo-Australian Telescope at Siding Springs, New South Wales.

Speckle interferometry is a clever trick, which enables astronomers to get around the twinkling of starlight, which normally smears the image of a star (or galaxy) so eliminating fine detail. Twinkling is caused by the motion of the Earth's atmosphere, which bends and moves in the starlight.

However the motion is fairly slow, so if a picture can be taken fast enough, it can be recorded without smearing.

NGC1068 is not bright enough for that but it is bright enough to allow at least two particles of light (photons) to be detected by the telescope in that time. With an electronic detector that will record the arrival — and image position — of single photons, and a computer to add up to all such photon pairs, an unsmearing image can be built up.

Even so, a fairly bright source is necessary. Some Seyferts like NGC1068, are bright enough, and the group turned its attention to it.

In this way, the group managed to observe detail in a Seyfert galactic centre, 30 times finer than would otherwise be possible.

The results show that the galaxy has an extremely compact nucleus, less than six light years across, with another group of brighter objects just beside it, 20 to 40 light years away.

The nucleus is too bright (equal to 5,000 million suns) and too compact to be explained as a dense conglomeration of stars, say the observers. The most obvious conclusion is that the galaxy is centred on a massive black hole.

Source: Nature vol 296 p331 (25 March 1982)
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Law Report March 29 1982

No way round writ irregularity

Bernstein and Another v Jackson and Another
Before Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Goffe

[Judgment delivered March 19]

An irregularity in procedure caused by the non-renewal of a writ was not one which could be cured by invoking the provisions of Order 2, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The extension and renewal of a writ was governed exclusively by Order 6, rule 8.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the first defendant, Mrs Maureen Jackson, from an order made by Mr Justice Lawson in chambers in Leeds District Registry. The first defendant and the plaintiffs, Mr Giles Bernstein and the estate's Caminsky, were residents of South Africa.

The plaintiffs had obtained judgment for 6,000 rands against the first defendant in South Africa in May 1977. That judgment had not yet been paid.

The first defendant had an account with the Leeds Permanent Building Society which she had agreed to transfer to the plaintiffs in satisfaction of the South African judgment. That money was never transferred. On December 7, 1977 the plaintiffs issued a writ in England claiming the £3,000 and the building society was joined as second defendant.

On January 6, 1978 the registrar gave the plaintiffs leave to serve a writ on the first defendant in England. The writ was not served on the first defendant. On December 7, 1978 the time for service of the writ expired. No application was made to renew it.

The first defendant returned to England in 1978. On January 28, 1981 the registrar, on the plaintiffs' application, made an order for substituted service of the notice of the writ on the first defendant to be effected by post at the office of the second defendant's solicitors in Leeds.

Service in that manner was effected and the proceedings were continued. The first defendant, who did not acknowledge service or effect an appearance and in May 1981 judgment in default was signed against her.

In July 1981 the first defendant applied to set aside the order for substituted service of the notice of the writ and the judgment in default for irregularity. She also applied to strike out the action. The registrar adjourned the matter to the judge.

The judge held that the irregularity relied on, the non-renewal of the writ, was not a technicality but a fundamental step in proceedings for which was governed exclusively by Order 6, rule 8.

Mr Collins, for the plaintiffs, submitted that although a writ which had not been renewed was not valid, which he had not applied to the notice of the writ and that nothing in the rules indicated that such a notice was not valid for service.

He said that if he was wrong about that, "nonetheless the failure to renew the writ was an irregularity which would add to costs to strike the action out because new proceedings could be issued again as the period of limitation had not yet expired. Therefore, the judge was right to allow the action to go ahead and be tried on the merits."

While his Lordship completely understood the reason why the judge had made the order which he did and had sympathy for the plaintiffs' case, he came to the clear conclusion that Mr Lumley was right.

His Lordship did not think that the judge could have extended the validity of the writ under Order 6, rule 8, and that being the case, there was great force in the submission that Order 6, rule 8 provided a comprehensive code for the extension and renewal of writs which was not the type of irregularity which was envisaged could be dealt with by Order 2, rule 1.

Even assuming that that could be done, in his Lordship's view, the irregularity in the present case was such a fundamental defect in procedure that the judge should not have exercised his discretion under Order 2, rule 1. Accordingly the appeal would be allowed and the writ and order for substituted service set aside.

Lord Justice Goffe agreed. Solicitors: Beauchamp Hyman Isaacs for Emsley Collins & Co, Leeds; Waterhouse & Co for Walker Morris & Co, Leeds.

larity which would have been open to her to take if the writ had been served upon her. Although for order for substituted service which could be cured by the provisions of Order 2, rule 1.

The court had a wide discretion under the rule, but the discretion had to be exercised with a proper regard to the rest of the rules. In particular, the rule had never been used to circumvent the provisions of Order 6, rule 8.

Mr Lumley submitted that what had happened in the present case was not a mere technicality or slip or mistake but because the renewal of a writ was a fundamental step in proceedings for which was governed exclusively by Order 6, rule 8.

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INCURABLE?—Yes.

The British Home and Hospital for incurable specialists in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralyzing diseases. They need very special care and attention.

Some are helpless, bedridden these unhappy ones have to be nursed, really cared for, with compassion, courtesy and patience.

UNHAPPY?—No.

The British Home and Hospital for incurable specialists in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralyzing diseases. They need very special care and attention.

More than a hospital much more than a 'Home'

BH&H

The British Home & Hospital for incurable specialists in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralyzing diseases. They need very special care and attention.

Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JD
PATRON HM QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER

Mary Rose sails again

Two men pioneering new uses for the camera have produced a photograph of Henry VIII's flagship Mary Rose on the high seas, months before she is due to be raised from the seabed.

The colour photograph of the Tudor warship sails billowing, is the latest product of the men behind the trick posters for Heineken Lager and Benson and Hedges cigarettes.

This week, with the approval of the Mary Rose Trust, Mr Robert Elsdale, photographer, and Alan Schmidt, fine arts expert, will start taking out fine art prints of their picture.

They will sell alongside a collection of 12 other "historic" ship photographs produced using the same technique, celebrating Maritime England Year, 1982.

Mr Schmidt said the secret of the photographs was the use of an advanced front projection system to produce a double exposure of a very accurate model with a slide depicting the ideal setting. The image is then retouched before high-quality dye transfer printing. "We are trying to apply our technology so that it is virtually impossible to see how it has been done", he said.

The Maritime England series includes an AD 900 Saxon longship to the 1869 Cutty Sark racing under full sail off the south coast of England.

Impossibility of plot

Regina v Crane and Another

Any suggestion that a witness of conspiracy could be offed by the occurrence of subsequent events was quite absurd, Mr Justice Peter Pain (sitting with Lord Justice Keir and Lord Justice Beldam) held in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on March 18.

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While in principle there had to be that time the offence was complete at that time.

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Plaque to mark... of rambo

The... years of... rambo... posed to direct... attempted... junction on M... training him f... meeting in Hav... ended them on h...

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Science report

Galaxies which lead to oblivion

By The Staff of "Nature"
Galaxies, those "island universes" which are the basic building blocks of the universe, are now being found to come in many shapes and sizes. Stars cluster in these galaxies, which are slowly turning between one island and the next.

The contemplation of them, in their slow drift away from one another, is the expansion of the universe, is said to have led Sir James to religion. Nowadays, evidence is accumulating that these galaxies are even more spectacular than Sir James imagined: at the centre of each may be a massive, steadily swallows matter into oblivion.

The latest evidence comes from the discovery of a Seyfert galaxy. Such galaxies are very bright, hot nuclei, and are in many ways similar to quasars — which are themselves probably early stages of galaxies. Seyferts may, in fact, be old quasars, but they are easier to observe because they are gentler.

The Seyfert in question was NGC1068 and it was observed with a technique called "spectroscopy" by a group from the University of Manchester, the Mullard Radio Astronomy Laboratories (Jodrell Bank), and Imperial College, London, using the Anglo-Australian Telescope at Mt. St. Helens, New South Wales. Spectroscopy is a clever trick which enables astronomers to get around the twinkling of stars, which normally makes the image of a star for galaxy so blurring that it is difficult to see. Twinkling is caused by the motion of the Earth's atmosphere, which blurs and moves in the twinkling of an eye. However, the motions are fairly slow, so if a picture can be taken fast enough, it can be recorded without blurring.

This is not bright enough for that, but it is bright enough to show at least two particles of light entering the telescope at that time. With an ultra-fast detector, it will record the arrival — and image position — of single photons, and a computer will add up all such photon pairs, an unblurred image can be built up.

Even so, a fairly bright source is necessary. Some Seyferts are NGC1068, are brighter than that, and the group studied is among the brightest.

In this way, the group managed to observe a faint, but a Seyfert galaxy, NGC1068, in a way that was not possible before. The results show that the galaxy has an extremely compact nucleus, less than six light years across, with a bright, hot core. The objects are very bright, and the group studied is among the brightest.

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Training change ordered after firemen's deaths

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The London Fire Brigade has ordered changes in its training and operational procedures in the light of the reports exposed by official reports into the deaths of two firemen last year.

The Home Office is also likely to come under renewed pressure to make breathing apparatus mandatory for every fireman entering a burning building following the death of Fireman Anthony Marshall, aged 26, who was killed in the blaze which destroyed Woolworth's in Wimbledon, south London, on April 30 last year.

But the confidential report into his death and that of Fireman Barry Trussell, who died after fighting a fire at Tooting Hospital three days earlier, also highlight what experts believe are serious breaches of fire service regulations which might have saved the two men.

The report details a catalogue of hasty improvisations by men working their physical limits, unsupervised by some officers in charge of individual crews, confusion among senior officers about their own roles at the fire and as many as 40 different primary fire-fighting tasks. Fireman Marshall died on his own after being allowed to enter the burning store without breathing apparatus to take a rope to two colleagues on the second floor. He was not reported missing until one hour and 11 minutes after he had last been seen by another fireman.

Fireman Trussell, who was wearing breathing apparatus, was killed in a smoke-filled store containing 11 cylinders of oxygen, nitrogen and compressed air. Robert Luker, his colleague, heard a loud hissing and shouted to Mr Trussell to get out before he was driven out himself with head burns on his hands and neck.

In spite of his injuries Mr Luker went back into the store to try to find Mr Trussell before he was taken to the casualty department. Neither of the two men were wearing anti-flash protection, which is laid down as compulsory in Brigade Operational Note 6 for fires

in which cylinders are involved. The reports do nothing to diminish the London Fire Brigade's reputation for outstanding bravery. According to the Fire Brigades Union, however, they raise serious questions about whether firemen are being put to unnecessary risk, especially where the lives of the public are not in danger.

Martin Gosnell, a Woolworth employee, who started the fire, was convicted of the manslaughter of Mr Marshall at the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court in December. During his summing up Mr Justice Tudor Price commented that "a fireman should not have been sent in without breathing apparatus. He should have gone in as he did and he should not have been left alone. Had it been realized that he had not come out, he might have been recovered sooner."

The brigade's report on the Wimbledon fire also notes that, according to roll boards, used to log which fire engine was not used at any time for a roll call and were in any case incorrectly made out. And of the nine breathing apparatus sets held at the Wimbledon fire station there were records of only three having been given the daily check required by brigade orders.

The report also said that, according to safety officers at the fire, "engaged in command duties, and fire-fighting instead of sticking to their own specific tasks."

The Fire Brigades Union believes that many of the failures that led to the deaths of the two firemen are repeated almost every day in the country's 63 brigades. The Health and Safety Executive declined a union request to prosecute the Greater London Council under the 1974 Health and Safety Act, which was passed after the deaths of the two firemen.

Mr Michael Frodham, FBU national officer responsible for safety, yesterday blamed "economic cuts and employers' attitude to health and safety" for the "several problems that exist in the fire service throughout Britain."

Mr Ronald Bullers, London's Chief Fire Officer, has been recommended in the Brigade Report also to consider a new regulation to prevent operational failings not at present covered by existing regulations.

These include new procedures for ordering roll calls during fires to ensure that firemen are not missing; for all firemen to be accompanied when they enter a burning building; and for senior officers who arrived without being ordered to a fire to notify control room.

The Fire Brigades Union also claims that the death of Fireman Marshall underlines their contention for 10 years that no fireman should be allowed to enter a burning building without breathing apparatus. If Fireman Marshall had been wearing such apparatus, his whereabouts would have been recorded by a control officer. The apparatus would also have contained a distress signal unit.

After Tooting, the Union also proposed improved search and rescue drills because of the 10 minutes it took two fresh breathing apparatus crews to find Fireman Trussell in a building, which was only 15 metres by six although it was cluttered with hospital equipment. Local union officials also want a minimum of five firemen on most fire engines.

The union's argument that manning levels endanger life is denied by the London Fire Brigade, which says that all recent examinations of manpower in London show that the current level of 6,000 is high enough to ensure that official Home Office standards of cover are maintained.

Mr Dennis Willmott, the brigade's deputy chief officer, emphasized yesterday that nearly all the errors during the two fatal fires last year had been shown to arise from crews not observing procedures.

Mr Michael Frodham, FBU national officer responsible for safety, yesterday blamed "economic cuts and employers' attitude to health and safety" for the "several problems that exist in the fire service throughout Britain."



Minarets await a new home

Mr John Morley, director of Brighton Pavilion, surveying a fibre-glass minaret that has been removed from the building. The pavilion is being stripped of its fibre-glass minarets, not entirely faithful reproductions of John Nash's stone originals which decay made dangerous (Robin Young writes).

The four largest, which were over the banqueting room at the south end of the building now make a surrealistic sight in the builders' yard where they

await possible buyers in company with a solitary palm, survivor from the ornamental garden.

The fibre-glass has not weathered as well as was hoped. It has faded so that it now resembles concrete rather than stone. It was also causing leaks.

Mr Moley says all 16 minarets will eventually come down. He is open to offers, and even the architect in charge of the reconstruction has already expressed an interest in buying.

Barrow welcomes Trident

From John Chartres, Barrow-in-Furness

Barrovians, the 60,000-odd inhabitants of a town often regarded as an outpost of British industry, have cautiously welcomed the Vickers shipyard will get the first contract to build four Trident submarines.

Even if the contract is confirmed, it is unlikely to turn Barrow, with a 10 per cent unemployment rate, into a boom town. At best it will maintain the present level of employment, which is considerably better than in other shipbuilding areas like the Mersey and the Tyne.

Execution and Engineering (now part of the nationalized British Shipbuilders organization and having no connection with Vickers Ltd) emphasized that their part in the Trident programme will have no connection with weaponry.

That gives some comfort to local trade union leaders and to Mr Albert Booth, Labour MP for the constituency, whose natural instincts are anti-nuclear. Their dilemma is that 13,000 of their members and constituents work in the Vickers yard, heavily committed for many years to shipbuilding and especially submarine building. The Barrow Shipbuilding

Company, earlier known as Naval Construction and Armaments Company and later as Vickers, built the world's first successful submarine for a Mr Thorsten Nordenflet, a Swedish industrialist, international arms supplier and a director of the original company, in 1884.

In 1901 the Navy's first submarine, Holland No 1, was built at Barrow. The company has built 30 submarines since, and hundreds of warships.

At present the yard is two thirds of the way through a continuous programme for the Navy's nuclear-powered fleet of hunter-killer submarines; 12 are already at sea, one at the fitting-out stage and three more being built. The yard has just tendered to build the seventeenth boat in the series. Two more such contracts are in prospect.

A project for an unlimited number of diesel-electric powered Type 2400 submarines is at the design stage. Vickers hope to sell them to the Navy to replace the obsolescent fleet of "Oberon" class conventionally powered submarines. The Trident project may speed plans to build a covered submarine yard, at an estimated cost of between

£100m and £200m. A decision is awaited from the Department of Industry, the Ministry of Defence and British Shipbuilders, but it is expected it will create about 700 jobs for at least five years.

Mr Booth's first comment on the Trident 2 decision was that it amounted to "bad news" for his constituency. More jobs might have been created under the earlier Trident 1 programme, he said, and the building of the Trident hulls might interfere with the hunter-killer vessels' programme.

Vickers dispute that. They say they have ample facilities to cope with Trident, the hunter-killer programme, and as many non-nuclear powered Type 2400s as they can get orders for.

Local trade union leaders have not supported a call at last week's Scottish Labour Party conference for industrial action and civil disobedience in Barrow against Trident.

Mr David Mackenzie, local secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, told The Times that he and other trade unionists had to face the fact that Barrow depended upon the building of warships and other weapons.

Scarman calls for spirit of conciliation

By Lucy Hodges

Lord Scarman told community relations councils on Saturday that their job was to conciliate and to bind wounds, not to "stick the dagger into the wound".

He told a special conference of community relations councils in London, organized by the National Association of Community Relations Councils on issues arising out of his report into the Brixton riots, that the ultimate objective of councils should be to "help us in this island to achieve and maintain one system of law".

Lord Scarman, who was clearly addressing Britain's 100 community relations councils about their role in mending the wounds left by last year's rioting, said he was troubled about the national standing of the councils.

Lord Scarman, as many have done before him, advised community relations councils not to become merely spokesmen for minority groups but to be prepared to speak to them as well. They had to bridge the generation gap and involve the young so that they are not left to the age old British strategy of rioting.

Lord Scarman said the police had to be accountable and they should consult before mounting operations against street crime.

It was disclosed on Saturday that Commander Brian Fairbairn, head of L division, which includes Brixton, has agreed to terms of reference for the new police consultative committee in Brixton which say that he will consult the committee on general matters of policing policy and operations.

The terms of reference add: "Save in exceptional cases the commander will give prior notice of his intention to mount major police operations. On these occasions, where circumstances do not permit prior notice to be given, the commander may be required to account retrospectively to the committee for the particular types of operation mounted."

It is understood that Commander Fairbairn did not want the police to be forced to consult on general matters of policing policy and operations, and wanted to keep some discretion.

Lord Scarman told the community relations council they must ensure the police consultative committees did not become talking shops. "They must be based upon statute," he said. "They must have an independent legal existence arising from an act of Parliament."

"I did think that possibly the whole process of consultation could be tackled by administrative means but the Brixton experience has convinced me that this just will not do. The fact that formal liaison broke down in Brixton in 1977-78 played a great part in the failure of the police to appreciate in the early months of 1981 that the situation was so tense that they could not conceivably mount the Swamp 81 operation without local consultation to test the temperature of the water."

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

The royal household cuts costs

By Annabel Ferriman

Economies are being sought in the Royal Household because the Queen has had to make up deficits in the household accounts from her own private wealth (Annabel Ferriman writes).

The increase in the Civil List for next year will be eight per cent below the present rate of inflation, taking the total expenditure on the Royal Family up to £4.7m.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that the economies at the Palace were part of a general policy which had been operated for several years. Last year the staff was reduced by 20 to 346 and this year staffing would again be one area where economies would be considered.

New equipment such as word processors to help in answering letters has also been installed and some clearing work has been put out to private contractors.

The gap between income and expenditure in 1980 was £108,000 and in 1981 £82,000. A deficit is also expected this year.

Boat boys turn up safely

Four Boys were safe yesterday after spending a freezing night in their leaking boat. A big hunt was launched after the four failed to return from fishing.

Police said the boy's boat had sprung a leak near Wareham Channel, Poole, Dorset. They managed to beach the boat on mud, and set ashore in the morning.

The boys were Alan Richardson, aged 15, Paul Wilson, aged 14, Lee Fisher, aged 14, all of Upton near Poole, a 14-year-old, and a 14-year-old, all of Lychett Bay.

A Harland Quay north Dorset, three people, who failed to return from a fishing trip on Saturday arrived back safely yesterday.

Don in teaching dispute to sue

Professor Colin McCabe, a former Cambridge don who was at the heart of a dispute over English teaching, is suing Dr John Harvey, also a don, in the high court for alleged slander and libel.

Professor McCabe, who is now at Strathclyde University, complains of statements made to newspapers by Dr Harvey, a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and a member of the University's English faculty board. Dr Harvey is defending the action.

Policeman suspended

Chief Inspector Leslie Matthews-Stroud, aged 48, who was fined £50 by magistrates at Staines, for vandalising a telephone box outside his home, has been suspended from duty. The officer, who denied the charge, plans to appeal.

Motor cycle training

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is to take over motor cycle training following the Royal Automobile Club's decision to end its scheme.

Train hits car

A motorist and his wife escaped serious injury on Saturday when their car was hit by a goods train at a level crossing at Hemhill, Faversham in Kent. Police said Mr David Forster, aged 31, believed that although the crossing's automatic half barriers were down, the train had already passed.

Plague to mark clash of rambles

By Ronald Faux

The mass trespass of Kinder Scout, Derbyshire, 50 years ago next month is regarded by many who remain strong in leg and long in memory as the foundation stone of access to the countryside.

Mr Rothman, now aged 70, was a leader of the protest and received four months in prison for his trouble after the trespassers clashed with gamekeepers and police guarding the private grouse moor.

Mr Rothman, a communist and still a keen rambler of open spaces, hopes that many of the original 400 who defied the law will turn up with him at Hayfield, Derbyshire, on April 24 for a mass ramble on to the moors where a plague will be invoked.

He recalled that 50 years ago the finest rambling country was out of bounds because a few individuals wanted to shoot there for 10 days a year. Our united action on the day and helped to force the landowners to negotiate," he said.

The trespass came after years of fruitless effort by rambling organizations opposed to the gamekeepers' policy attempted to serve an injunction on Mr Rothman restraining him from holding a meeting in Hayfield, but he evaded them on his bicycle.

The handful of gamekeepers could not prevent the massed ramblers reaching the plateau of Kinder Scout where they met fellow ramblers from Sheffield and Stockport. On their return they were met by police and six were arrested.

Mr Rothman recalled that at the trial in Derby they were given a total of 17 months' imprisonment for riotously assembling to disturb the public. The jury, he said, had a strong look of county gentlemen.

Mr Rothman insists that even today no one should be complacent about countryside access. The battle, he says, is not yet won.

Many areas of the Peak District, Wales and Scotland have no legal public access. Rights of way are obliterated or blocked by landowners and more than 1,000 square miles are held by the Ministry of Defence.

Red Rope, the left-wing walking and climbing club which is helping to organize the commemoration, added: "Walkers must be vigilant about their rights. With more leisure time for many, and increasing unemployment, pressure on our open spaces will get worse and the new Wildlife and Countryside Bill has not helped the position."

Public interest in the celebration has exceeded Mr Rothman's hopes. Between 5,000 and 6,000 ramblers are expected to turn out. Television and radio programmes are in preparation and there is evidence to show that although the trespassers have been forgiven their cause has not been forgotten.

Suspect drugs 'sold to Third World'

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Drugs which have been withdrawn from unrestricted sale in Europe are being sold in developing countries, where their side effects are causing death and deformity, a conference was told on Saturday.

Mr David Warburton, of the General and Municipal Workers Union, said that pharmaceutical firms, not only exploited poor nations by charging unnecessarily high prices for their drugs but also sold drugs which, without proper medical advice, were dangerous.

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Camden case today

Councillors face surcharge and ban

By David Walker

A civil servant will seek today to have a group of Labour councillors found guilty of spending public money illegally in a court case sure to evoke comparison with Clay Cross, the Derbyshire local authority case that unsuccessfully tried to defy Mr Edward Heath's Government in 1972.

The district auditor, an official of the Department of the Environment, is asking the Divisional Court to declare that Camden borough council in London entered items in its accounts for 1978-79 contrary to law. If he wins, they will have to decide whether to surcharge and ban from public office 31 Labour members. They include Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, who was formerly active in Camden politics.

The elements in the case are rich. The documents include an article written for a Marxist journal describing Camden's public service trade unions as a focus for revolutionary activity. There is also a grossome list of the effects of overcrowded mortuaries.

Emotional precedents include the Poplar case in which George Lansbury and other East End socialists were found guilty of illegal over-spending in the 1920s.



Mr Livingstone: Faces charge of overspending

The seriousness of the case is that it is the first test of the district auditor's powers under the Local Government Act, 1972 which came into force in 1974.

The auditor has recently become a controversial figure, accused by some Labour councillors of acting more like a politician than an accountant. Norwich councilors accused of dilatoriness in selling their housing stock were threatened with the auditor's array of penalties.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has seemed to encourage auditors and accountants to look for value

for money in councils' books and directed them towards the big-spending Labour-controlled councils.

The Camden case is only the latest of several recent interruptions by the courts in the business of local government. On Friday the Divisional Court arbitrated in a case brought against the G.L.C. by Kensington council. Bromley council successfully sued the G.L.C. over fares. Norwich unsuccessfully sought judicial review of Mr Heseltine's takeover of its housing. A group of London councilors, including Camden, successfully sued Mr Heseltine over grant penalties.

The auditor's case against Camden is that it settled a strike by members of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) by paying a supplement not available elsewhere: the total amount of alleged unlawful spending was £350,000. Camden's or

case is that the strike happened during the "winter of discontent", 1978-79; that it had been singled out for special treatment by Nupe; and the well-being of the borough's inhabitants demanded an early settlement.

Councillors argue that a verdict against Camden could call into question pay bargains struck elsewhere and seem to rule out local negotiations.

TALKS ON CONTEMPT LAW TODAY

By a Staff Reporter

An amendment will be discussed in the Lords today to try to change the law on contempt of court after the Harrier case. Lord Harrier, Lord Gifford, ruled that documents read aloud in open court were confidential.

The proposed change in the law, which has been tabled by Lord Gifford and Lady Jeger and is supported by Lord Gardiner, the former Labour Lord Chancellor, among others, marks the start of a campaign by the National Council for Civil Liberties for a change.

The amendment has the support of such organizations as the TUC, the National Union of Journalists, the Campaign for Press Freedom and the parliamentary Labour Party and is in line with Lord Scarman's ruling in the Harman case.

The Law Lords ruled three to two that it was contempt of court for a solicitor, in this case Miss Har

Begin and Sharon defy international criticism

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 28

The Israeli Government today defied international criticism of its new security measures in the occupied West Bank by making a public declaration that "the policy in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will continue without demerit."

The declaration was issued after a meeting of the Cabinet which was addressed by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, and Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, the two members who have provided the driving force behind the struggle against the PLO.

After declaring that West Bank and Gaza Arabs who observed the law and kept the peace would have their safety guaranteed and be accorded assistance, the Government added firmly: "No act of violence or disturbances of the peace or order will be tolerated."

During the session, Mr Begin condemned the Peace Now demonstration held last night in Tel Aviv in which about 8,000 Israelis gathered to protest against the harsh tactics being employed in the occupied territories. Political sources said that Mr Begin was particularly infuriated by two slogans shouted at the rally: "Halt the occupation" and "The Golan is Syrian."

The rally was the largest of its kind seen in Israel for many months. At one point it was raised alongside the flag of David and Israeli demonstrators waved banners saying: "Peace not annexation" and "how many years can some people stay before they are allowed to be free?"

Mr Tzvi Reshef, one of the founders of Peace Now, told the crowd: "Oppression leads to violence and violence leads to bloodshed. The government must see that a large public is against its oppressive policies."

The demonstration high-

lighted the deep division caused in Israeli society by the West Bank crisis, and today Mr Begin bitterly attacked Labour Knesset members who took part. Meanwhile, in a speech delivered in Ashdod, Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, gave a warning against the dangers of turning the West Bank into an Arab ghetto.

Ministers also reviewed the danger that the present wave of violent protest will spread from the West Bank and Gaza into Israel proper on Tuesday when the 600,000 Israeli Arabs have been urged to hold a one-day strike against Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

The strike is planned to coincide with the sixth anniversary of Land Day, the occasion when Israeli Arabs commemorated a demonstration against the threatened expropriation of their lands inside Israel in which six Arabs were killed by Israeli security forces in 1976.

Diplomats regard the growing involvement of Israel's Arab minority in the upsurge of Palestinian unrest as a highly significant development. Already, four Arabs in the occupied territories have been injured in violent demonstrations held in solidarity with West Bank Palestinians.

Today's Cabinet session took place against a backdrop of continued but diminished unrest in the West Bank, and further severe Israeli actions against radical leaders. All three elected Arab mayors dismissed from their town halls in recent days have been faced with new restrictions.

These were issued yesterday and affect Mr Karim Khalaf, of Ramallah, who has been placed under town arrest in Jericho, after visiting his wife there, and Mr Haniyeh, who was arrested in his house in El-Bireh.

Today Mr Bassam Shaka of Nablus was also ordered to remain in his home until the present disturbances are over, but the Israeli authorities deny that this constitutes house arrest.

The three main Arabic newspapers published in East Jerusalem have again been prohibited by the Army from circulating in the West Bank. In Nablus, the largest occupied Arab town, employees in the town hall who refused to work under the Israeli mayor appointed as mayor, have been threatened with up to six months' imprisonment.

□ Tel Aviv: The Israeli Cabinet named Mr Dan Meridor, aged 34, to replace Mr Ayre Naor as Secretary (Moshe Brilliant writes). Mr Naor, who is facing a civil service disciplinary tribunal following allegations of unacceptable behaviour, submitted his resignation a December 31, but denied it was connected with the proceedings.

The new Secretary was nominated by Mr Begin. Like Mr Naor, he is a Herut Party activist.

□ Beirut: Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, said last night the situation in the Middle East could blow up in a result of Israeli practices in occupied Arab territories (Reuters reports).

In a message to Palestinians in the occupied territories, quoted by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, he said: "The Palestinian revolution... will not stand idle in face of the criminal persistence in implementing the Zionist and imperialist plans against our people in our occupied territory."

"Let the whole world know, and I say it quite clearly, that the situation in the entire area is liable to explode in face of this terrorist occupation and its repressive, fascist methods and Nazi crimes."



Central American turmoil

Thousands protest at US policies

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 28

Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets across the United States this weekend to protest against American policy in El Salvador.

The biggest rally was in Washington, where a crowd estimated at 23,000 by the police, and up to 50,000 by the organizers, marched to Lafayette Square, near the White House, to demand an end to American economic and military aid to the civilian military junta in El Salvador.

Other demonstrations took place in Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. They were reminiscent of the anti-war protests during the Vietnam conflict, and provided tangible evidence of the concern felt by many Americans that the United States is being sucked into deeper military and political involvement in Central America.

Recent polls have shown that an overwhelming majority of Americans are against United States military intervention. Marchers in Washington chanted: "No draft, no war, hands off El Salvador", and carried banners urging "US Out Of Salvador".

The demonstrators, many of whom had come in buses from other cities, resented more than 40 years of civil rights and religious groups.

"We want an end to all United States rights aid to El Salvador", Mr Robert Costa, one of the organizers said. "We believe the election process is a sham. Once again, the American is back in a role, but we are in a very different world now."

The demonstration was almost peaceful. The atmosphere was festive, and the crowd joined in singing and dancing in the beautiful spring weather.

It is still unclear whether a date and venue have been agreed for top-level talks between the United States and Nicaragua.

Last Friday, Mexico, which has been acting as a go-between in contacts involving the United States, Nicaragua

and Cuba, announced in the United Nations Council that senior American and Nicaraguan officials would meet in Mexico City in April to discuss their differences.

However, the State Department said later that the announcement was premature, and that no such meeting had been agreed. The United States appears to be avoiding any commitment at all, with either Nicaragua or Cuba, until the results of today's poll in El Salvador are known.

However, American officials have made it clear that the United States is prepared to undertake further bilateral talks in an attempt to reduce tensions in Central America.

□ London: 5,000 demonstrators marched through London protesting against British and American involvement in the Salvadoran election. The American Embassy shouting "Maggie Out" and "Reagan Murderer", and later held a rally in Trafalgar Square.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, told the rally that the election was "a grisly farce, and one which we should not be proud to be a part of."

□ Berlin: Riot police used tear gas yesterday to disperse about 10,000 anti-American protesters demonstrating at the Tempelhof United States air base (Reuters reports).

The demonstration, which was organized by 30 left-wing groups, was in protest at American policies in Central America. Protesters carried placards reading: "Mr Reagan - Hands Off El Salvador".

□ Mexico City: A World Front of Solidarity with El Salvador was founded here today at a conference of 1,700 people, with 42 delegations from 24 countries (AFP reports).

According to its founders, the new organization aims to "prevent any intervention by the United States in El Salvador, and to fight for peace and the respect of human rights in that country."

Leading article, page 7

Shuttle on course to land today

From Piers Akerman, Houston, March 28

The third mission of the space shuttle Columbia has been a complete success despite a series of mechanical failures, officials from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said today.

The reusable space orbiter has doubled the amount of time it spent aloft on either of the two earlier missions and scientists with experiments on board are satisfied with Columbia's performance.

The astronauts, Colonel Jack Lousma and Colonel Gordon Fullerton, have been cleared to land their craft at the United States White Sands missile range in New Mexico at 20.27 EST tomorrow.

The crew will fire the shuttle's main engine as they pass over the Indian Ocean during the shuttle's 115th orbit of the Earth about one hour before they are due to land. The thrust of the shuttle's rockets will take the craft out of orbit and into the Earth's atmosphere midway over the Pacific. After a searing reentry it will glide for 1,000 miles over the California coast and down across the south-western United States before landing in New Mexico.

Nasa flight controllers are hoping to test the shuttle's landing capabilities in moderate crosswinds. As shuttle training aircraft will be flown over the White Sands missile range at dawn, tomorrow to check the local weather. If necessary, the craft could be brought down one orbit or 90 minutes early. But the astronauts need six hours' or four complete orbits' notice to prepare the shuttle for an earlier landing.

If there are dust storms in the landing area, the shuttle management team would prefer to keep Columbia in orbit an extra day or more rather than risk a landing on the concrete runways at either Edwards Air Force Base in California, or the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

The shuttle has sufficient food and fuel reserves on board to safely stay aloft for a further 72 hours.

The primary objective of the shuttle's third mission, tests of the craft's ability to withstand extreme ranges of temperatures as it tilted and rotated towards the Sun was a total success, Mr Neil Hutchinson the flight director said today. The 45th remote controlled arm which was used to pluck experiments from Columbia's cargo bay and hold them outside the space shuttle, also operated without a hitch.

An important part of today's programme for the astronauts was a successful test of the auxiliary power unit which was shut down during the launch because of overheating. The power unit, one of three on board, provides hydraulic power to Columbia's wing and rudder controls during the gliding approach to the landing strip.

Journalists fight back in Poland

Warsaw, March 28

About 50 Polish journalists have sent an open letter to the editor of the Warsaw daily *Zycie Warszawy* protesting against the formation of a long-term pro-martial law journalists' association. The protesters, who all signed their names, said the new Association of Journalists of People's Poland did not represent the professional and creative interests of Polish journalists.

The organization, which toes the line of Poland's martial law rulers, was legalized on Wednesday after the abolition of the former association which was accused of promoting anti-communist and anti-state activity.

"We declare that the activity of the main board of the (former) association was one of the brightest points in the history of Polish journalism," the protesters said.

"This fact cannot be altered by official lies, and attempts at presenting the dissolution of a democratic organization as meeting the demands of the people involved."

Mr Janusz Stefanowicz, the editor of *Zycie Warszawy*, has called for a dialogue between the Government, the suspended Solidarity free trade union and the Roman Catholic Church to avert what he said could be years of passive political resistance. He said opposition forces had backed away from direct confrontation because of martial law and were thinking instead of a long-term campaign of resistance by inertia.

This long-term conspiracy rested on the assumption that the military and communist establishment would eventually disintegrate, Mr Stefanowicz said. "This is based on the expectation that resistance will get stronger and on a gradual erosion of the mainstays of power - that the military might tire of replacing the civilian authorities and the civilian authorities may not succeed in rebuilding their administration."

He said such a scenario could be avoided if all sides, including the Roman Catholic Church, embarked on a dialogue.

□ London: Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity leader, has become more nervous, but "will not bend" to pressure from the Polish authorities, according to an interview with his wife published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). The interview was carried out shortly before the christening of Maria Viktorovna, the Walesas' seventh child.

Mrs Danuta Walesa, who has seen her husband three times since his arrest, said: "Although he had been asked to appear on television many times 'to calm public opinion' with an appeal, Leszek [Lech] wouldn't even hear of it." Now the authorities "practically only talk to him about trifles, things of no importance. They do this to test his mental state and to humiliate him."

Brezhnev health fears renewed in Moscow

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 28

The Russians yesterday cancelled a visit here by President Ali Nasser Muhammad of South Yemen due to begin tomorrow, saying simply that it had been postponed by mutual agreement.

No reason was given for the announcement, but Western observers suggest the change has been made to allow President Brezhnev time to rest after the strain of his four-day visit to Tashkent last week. The Soviet leader, who is 75, returned to Moscow on Friday, but Soviet television did not show his arrival, a break with tradition.

President Muhammad was due to begin a working visit announced nine days ago while a senior Soviet party official was visiting Aden. His country is linked to the Soviet Union by a treaty of friendship.

Mr Brezhnev took part in a lengthy ceremony and made a 45-minute speech in Tashkent, as well as visiting two factories and a farm and meeting workers and party leaders. His trip came shortly after his address to the Soviet Trade Union Congress, in Moscow. Mr Brezhnev's health is frail and he needs long and frequent periods of rest, between official engagements. He looked tired as he boarded the aircraft to leave Tashkent.

A state visit by President Ciscard d'Estaing of France three years ago was also postponed at short notice, and French diplomats were told then that Mr Brezhnev had influenza.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Coup trial slander claim fails

Madrid - A magistrate has dismissed a slander charge brought against two journalists by one of the officers on trial for last year's attempted coup, the liberal *Diario 16* newspaper reported here today. (Harry Debellus writes).

The decision cleared *Diario 16's* editor, Señor Pedro Ramirez, and a reporter, Señor Adolfo Salvador. They had been accused in connection with a front-page article in the newspaper which reported that one of the trial defendants, Captain Carlos Alvarez-Arenas, threatened to shoot any of his troops who backed out on the night of the uprising.

The article was published on the first anniversary of the unsuccessful coup, four days after the opening of the court martial of those who allegedly took part in it.

Tourists flee freak rains

Alice Springs. - Three days of heavy rain has turned the dusty roads of central Australia into quagmires, forcing several hundred tourists to leave by air.

Police here said that most roads were impassable to all but four-wheel drive vehicles because 11.3in of rain had fallen since Thursday although no serious flooding had been reported.

Security watch on Mitterrand



Paris. - Security measures have been tightened around President Mitterrand and his Cabinet in view of an April 1 - deadline - on an ultimatum from "Carlos", known terrorist (above). The ultimatum followed the arrest on February 16 in Paris of a couple belonging to Carlos's organization.

In it "Carlos" or Illich Ramirez Sanchez, demanded the release of Bruno Breugnot and Magdalena Kop arrested for allegedly faked documents and carrying weapons. Their trial is due in Paris shortly.

Reagan slides in popularity

New York. - A majority of Americans hope President Reagan will not seek a second term in office, according to an opinion poll in the *Time* magazine. Of 1,019 people interviewed in mid-March, 52 per cent hoped he would not seek reelection and 31 per cent hoped he would. Fears about a nuclear war and worries about recession and jobs were given as reasons.

SDP formed in Spain

Madrid. - Spain's social democrats, led by Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordones, a renegade centre party politician who was twice minister of the central Government, have set up the Social Democratic Action Party (PAD) at the end of a three-day congress (Harry Debellus writes).

Conceived as a hinge between the ruling Centre democratic Union and the Opposition Socialist Workers Party it will put up its first general election.

Jakarta bans 'Australian'

Jakarta. - Indonesia is banning circulation of the newspaper *The Australian* because it has carried articles on the newly incorporated province of East Timor, which the Government considers unfavourable. Distributors said bans on other foreign papers were being considered.

MPs questioned on union links

Ankara. - Martial law officials in Istanbul have begun interrogating 15 former deputies of the now-abolished Republican People's Party in connection with an investigation of 132 former RPP Deputies and Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Prime Minister. They are accused of sharing "the ideology of the Progressive Trade Union Confederation".

In the pink

Ibiza. - President Reagan's younger daughter, Patty, following in her parents' footsteps, is acting a small part in the latest of the *Pink Panther* films being shot on this Mediterranean Island. The United States Secret Services provided nine body guards.

Iran claims 8,000 Iraqi dead

Tehran, March 28. - Iraq lost 33,000 men, 3,000 prisoners or casualties since Iran launched its offensive last Monday, the daily *Ettelaat* newspaper reported today.

Iran took 13,000 prisoners and left 8,000 dead and 12,000 wounded during action west of Shush and Dezful in the oil province of Khuzestan, the newspaper said. It also claimed that Shush, Dezful, Andimehk and Haft-Tappeh were now beyond the range of Iraqi fire after the capture of two strategic Iraqi bases, one of which was said to be equipped with ground-to-air missiles threatening the entire region.

The Iraqi news agency said that its forces repulsed a large-scale Iranian offensive in the Dezful and Shush areas early today and quoted an Iraqi military commander as saying that his forces had beaten back enemy troops and had then started to pursue and destroy them.

The Iranians suffered heavy casualties and material damage, he said.

Tehran radio today reported that more than 5,000 Iraqi prisoners had been captured during the third phase of the offensive which began at Dawn yesterday, but said that the Iranian Army headquarters had not yet supplied the list of total Iraqi losses since yesterday because the two armies were still fighting.

According to an Iranian military communique issued today, senior Iraqi officers were among those taken prisoner, including General Dakhil Ali Helali, operational commander of the Reghabish region.

Other successes claimed by Iran include the wiping out of three Iraqi mechanized brigades and an Iraqi aircraft was shot down yesterday afternoon bringing the total to 14 destroyed since last Monday.

□ Beirut: President Saddam Hussein of Iraq called today for a ceasefire in the Gulf war and settlement by peaceful means, which will guarantee just, historical and legitimate rights" the official Iraqi news agency said.

Before the latest fighting started, Iraqi setbacks on the battlefield after 18 months of war seemed to be pushing it into concessions to try to tempt Iran to the negotiating table. - AFP and Reuters.

Summit will focus on EEC jobless

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 28

The plight of Europe's 10 million unemployed is likely to dominate discussion between the 10 EEC heads of government when they meet here for the Community's silver jubilee summit tomorrow.

The meeting will begin after a series of fine speeches, a good lunch and a round of mutual congratulations on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. When it gets down to business, however, it will have to address itself to the most serious economic crisis the Community has ever had to face.

The need to form a common front, especially with the June summit at Versailles involving the United States and Japan, undoubtedly helped to sweep aside very temporarily the bitter dispute over Britain's EEC budget contribution. This subject will certainly be raised by Mrs Thatcher during the course of the meeting, and could well be discussed in the margins, but it will not be allowed to wreck the European solidarity movement at the summit.

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, who will preside at the summit, has, however, sent a letter to his peers inviting them to face up to the circumstances which have led to the EEC being in a perpetual state of crisis since its creation.

The letter underlines the fact that the Community has not yet got a real common commercial policy, real monetary solidarity, nor common actions to assure support of industrial potential. He therefore intends to pursue three "grand themes" during the meeting.

These are: creating an economic climate to attract investment and to resolve the unemployment problem; defining economic and commercial relationships with the United States and Japan; and developing the European Monetary System (EMS).

The three subjects are inextricably linked and have formed the basis of a great deal of hollow Community promises and verbiage in the past. Mr Martens hopes that the growing urgency of the situation - European unemployment is of course to exceed 11 million by the time of the Versailles summit - will help to concentrate minds more meaningfully this time.

Miss Kitson was accompanied to South Africa

The basis for discussion will be a paper specially prepared by M François-Xavier Ortoli, the economic and Financial Affairs Commissioner. This notes that nothing had been done to loosen the grip of the oil constraint that the trend in investment is "disquieting" and that any upturn in employment at the end of the year "will be only a small one and it may well be precarious".

M Ortoli's paper complains that "divergences in policies, behaviour and results are bad on a Community based on a single market and bound monetarily by strong reciprocal undertakings". He says member-states must not depart from a single line.

Present policies are inadequate to produce more jobs, the paper says, and M Ortoli will be asking the summit to agree the need for coordinated action which can be worked out by the Commission in time for the next European Council in June.

Employment measures suggested are: a youth scheme which over the next five years would give training to every community youngster under the age of 18; cuts in employers' contributions to encourage recruitment; and regional and social fund money to help small-and medium-sized businesses as well as co-operatives.

One suggestion in which Mrs Thatcher is expected to take considerable interest is that there should be greater Community interest in co-ordinating high technology research.

Given West German reticence, there is little chance of making any real progress on institutionalizing the EMS and in turn this will make it difficult for the summit to do more than repeat its concern about the continuing high level of American interest rates.

The most fruitful discussions of all are likely to take place on the political cooperation level, when the meeting turns away from the nitty-gritty of Europe's economic problems and looks at the difficulties in the Middle East, Central America, Turkey and Poland.

Despite M Ortoli's gloomy paper, it is certain that the jubilee summit will conclude that after 25 years of working rather badly together the Community has become one of the better places on Earth even for the unemployed.



Transparent honesty: An early voter in San Salvador casting his ballot in a see-through box.

Guatemala poll promised

Guatemala City, March 28.

Guatemala's new military rulers have promised to hold general elections for a new Government, but have not fixed a date.

General Horacio Maldonado Schaad, one of the three-man junta which seized power last Tuesday, said at the weekend that elections would be called "as soon as possible".

General Maldonado, who is also Interior Minister, said he had ordered steps to be taken to stop human rights abuses. He also said that the command had urgent orders to find persons "kidnapped" under the previous administration.

'Intimidation' on Pretoria jail visit

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, March 28

Miss Amanda Kitson, the British daughter of Mr David Kitson, who had been in prison in South Africa since 1964, serving a 20 year sentence for sabotage, flew home tonight after being allowed to see and speak to her father, but not to touch him, in his top-security jail in Pretoria.

In a separate development, eight young white South Africans arrested last year under the security laws have been released without charge.

Miss Kitson told a press

conference that her father's mental and physical condition had deteriorated since she last saw him two years ago. He had told her that his health was poor and that opportunities for exercise were inadequate. It had been difficult to talk to her father because they were separated by a glass screen, had to raise their voices to make themselves heard and were watched all the time by "intimidating" warders.

Miss Kitson was accompanied to South Africa

by Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the Labour Party spokesman on southern Africa, who is the Kitson family lawyer. He was refused access to Mr Kitson and his requests for meetings with Mr H. J. Coetzee, the Minister of Justice, and Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, to discuss Mr Kitson's situation were also turned down.

One of the points that Mr Clinton Davis had wanted to raise with the ministers was the possibility of remission for Mr Kitson.

Coup trial slander claim fails

Madrid—A magistrate has dismissed slander charges brought against two journalists by one of the officers involved in last year's attempted coup, the liberal *Diario 16* newspaper reported here.

Tourists flee peak rains

Spain—Heavy rain has turned dusty roads of central Spain into quagmires, forcing several hundred tourists to leave by air.

Security watch on Mitterrand



Paris—Security measures have been heightened around President Mitterrand as he visits the south of France.

Reagan slides in popularity

New York—A majorities in the Gallup Poll suggest that President Reagan's popularity is on the rise.

SDP formed in Spain

Madrid—Spain's social democratic party, the *Partido Socialista*, has been formed.

Jakarta bans 'Australian'

Jakarta—Indonesia's government has banned the Australian newspaper *The Australian*.

MPs questioned on union links

Ankara—In Istanbul, officials are questioning MPs about their links with unions.

In the pink

President Reagan's daughter, Patricia, is acting as a bridesmaid in the wedding of her brother, Mark.



Beyond the façade . . . the reluctant Grand Old Man

Tonight, in a fanfare of William Walton music sounding out in church, concert rooms and halls, the British musical world will be honouring its most loved and respected composer on his 80th birthday.

He stays at the Savoy, and when not out attending rehearsals receives callers, a tall, wiry, slightly frail figure in velvet carpet slippers and red polo-neck sweater.

William Walton was born in Oldham, Lancashire, the second of four children. His father was a choir master and singing teacher who rapped his knuckles with a ring if he sang badly.

His mother had a contralto voice and the Walton home was staunchly Church of England. There was little money.

His broad Lancashire accent was soon teased out of him and because he found playing an instrument torture he continued composing, earning a series of awards that kept him on at choir school and later made him the university's youngest undergraduate since Henry VIII.

If luck intervened then, it was in the form of the Sitwell family. In 1919, Walton, a reluctant scholar, met Sacheverell, the youngest of the Sitwells, and when he was sent down before his degree, it was Sacheverell who offered him a bed at 2 Carlyle Square.

Walton stayed nearly 15 years. Oldham receded. In his attic room he sat and wrote the pieces that were to make his name, sounding them out on a piano, while downstairs he met the literary and musical lions who formed the glittering twenties.

Constant Lambert, Siegfried Sassoon, Sir Thomas Beecham, George Gershwin, Vladimir Dukelsky, soon after his 20th birthday, fashionable London perched on uncomfortable gilt chairs in the drawing room to hear his accompaniment to "Edith Sitwell's poems: *Facade*."

Walton's music, however, did not. Alice Winborne, made him work. The Thirties and early Forties were fruitful years: not just *Belshazzar's Feast*, but the *First Symphony*, the *Violin Concerto* as well as the *Coronation March* for George VI.

By the end of the war, which was spent driving ambulances "very badly," Walton no longer had any need to scrounge. His output had been enlarged by superb and popular film music, the best of it the result of a collaboration with Laurence Olivier, that produced *Henry V*, *Richard III* and *Hamlet*. The two became friends.

"I found the task terrifying," says Walton. "You always felt you had to do your best for Olivier. But he was marvellous to work for." Walton's life, anyway, was set for a change. Alice Winborne died in 1948, and the British musical world was beginning to exact duties from its favoured composer.

On a visit for the Performing Right Society to Argentina he met Susana Gil Passio, daughter of a Buenos Aires businessman. "Another stage of luck," she was 25 years younger and totally unmusical.

The Times Profile: Sir William Walton, 80 today

Ed to sow, and protected by a natural barrier of rock. Here clinging to a cliff face like a barely visible nest of grey stone, they built what is today a marvellous house. Around the fringe of their land they placed a reef of smaller cottages, ideal as protection against encroaching tourists, and bringing in a secure income in summer lets.

In between they laid down a veritable Eden: lily ponds, fountains, a Mexican tropical bed, a rock garden, a patch of rare ferns, all supervised by Lady Walton, mulched and hoed by two gardeners. From his musical travels, often conducting his own work, Walton sent his celebratory marches as for the mixture of stringency, up the cliff to the swimming

tense romanticism of his orchestral music. Critics have said that Walton has not changed musically in 60 years; but that, reply his admirers, is precisely the point about him: he has not felt the need to change.

All of it bears his own particular mark. "People are quick to look for musical influences," says Alan Frank, for years his musical publisher at Oxford University Press. "But you have to be careful with Walton. You can say Elgar, Sibelius or Prokofiev but then discover that he had not even heard much of their music when he was first writing."

It has not always been a smooth musical path. Walton, whose early choral training gave him a lasting love for church music, also wanted to write opera. His first, *Troilus and Cressida* opened in 1954 to a bad start: at the Scala in Milan it was hissed, and in London, Sir Malcolm Sargent, conducting at Covent Garden, had not attended enough rehearsals. Its reception was not warm.

Later, Walton wrote a second, short, opera called *The Bear*. Though well-liked it had not been greeted as the small masterpiece some critics believe it to be, and Walton has not written another. "I cannot find a librettist," he says. "It takes such a long time to write an opera. You can't afford to make mistakes."

The film music, too, ended in a certain regret. The triumphs of the Olivier collaboration were followed in the Sixties by an invitation to write the music for the *Battle of Britain*. United Artists complained that what he wrote was not long enough. They had their eye on publishing an LP, and Walton had turned in just 20 minutes of music. In the ensuing disagreement, Walton swore he would write nothing more for the screen.

Yet it would be wrong to emphasize the disappointments. Walton is much-loved and much-feted, not only in England, but in America where the leading orchestras com-

Caroline Moorehead

A tremendous time in the Thirties



Cambridge 1923: Walton, Cecil Beaton, Stephen Tennant, George Sitwell, Zeta De Jungman

Walton must have been a Grand Old Man. He has always been a scoundrel, from *Facade* (1922) to the jokes suitable only for a limited company. He has always been more brilliant than the dry and nowadays quite slow

Cambridge 1923: Walton, Cecil Beaton, Stephen Tennant, George Sitwell, Zeta De Jungman

Walton must have been a Grand Old Man. He has always been a scoundrel, from *Facade* (1922) to the jokes suitable only for a limited company. He has always been more brilliant than the dry and nowadays quite slow

Editor jailed for 5 years in China

Peking, March 28. — A senior Chinese journalist has been jailed for five years for leaking state secrets to foreigners, the *People's Daily* reported today, and it warned readers to beware of spies among the foreign community.

The Communist Party newspaper said Mr Li Guohong, a former editor of the bi-weekly *China Finance and Trade Journal*, had divulged details of an important party meeting held last summer as a result of being "flattered and won over" by unscrupulous foreigners.

The newspaper said in a commentary: "We should be wary in contact with foreigners, but we should also be careful to distinguish between foreigners and Chinese." It advised readers to maintain high vigilance against a minority of foreign agents, spies and infiltrators with ulterior motives who steal secret information about party and state activities.

The Peking High Court had upheld the sentence imposed on Mr Li, aged 64, by an intermediate court in February, the newspaper said. The maximum sentence for leaking state secrets is seven years' jail under China's criminal code.

People's Daily said Mr Li had leaked to the foreigners details of discussions at the sixth plenum of the eleventh party congress in June, which decided to replace Mr Hu Yaobang.

The newspaper said Mr Li



Mr Levesque: Unlikely to attend festivities.

Quebec to shun the Queen

From John Best, Ottawa, March 28

When the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh come here next month as Canadians celebrate their new constitution, one province, Quebec, will stand solemnly apart from the festivities.

Its self-exclusion will be a reminder that the achievement is a doubtful one in terms of Canadian national unity. French-speaking Quebec, with a quarter of Canada's 24 million people, rejects the new basic law, which has just been passed by Westminster after a rough passage through the Canadian Parliament last year.

Royal Assent is to be signed in London tomorrow, 115 years to the day after Queen Victoria assented to the British North America Act, Canada's first constitution.

Quebec's separatist Parti Québécois Government objects to portions of the amending formula contained in the new constitution, as well as to parts of the entrenched Bill of Rights.

The Bangladesh coup Two years of military rule likely

Dacca, March 28. — Lieutenant-General Hossain Muhammad Ershad, the new leader of Bangladesh, foresees military rule lasting at least two years.

At a press conference here yesterday, his first since last Wednesday's bloodless coup, he said that if the conditions were right after two years he would allow a referendum or democracy.

"I have already explained I want to restore democracy as soon as possible. But this is going to be a democracy which will be consistent with the hopes and aspirations of the people. This democracy should serve the people and not master them," he said.

General Ershad, who is 52, also said that corruption had reached intolerable levels in this poverty-stricken nation of 89 million people. Former President Abdus Sattar, an honest man, he said, but he had lost control of his ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and nobody was prepared to take decisions despite an economic crisis facing the country.

The General has already

Vietnam leadership admits to errors

From David Watts, Singapore, March 28

The fifth congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party has opened with the leadership describing a country suffering from all manner of shortages, mismanagement and corruption.

Delivering the party's central committee report, Mr Le Duan, the party secretary, said that the leadership was to blame for many of Vietnam's problems. He blamed all levels of the party for the country's economic and social difficulties and said that the central committee wanted to criticize itself strongly during the congress.

There has been a purge under way since the party began its membership cards in 1980, but, according to press reports from Hanoi, many of those issuing the cards have been guilty of corruption.

Mr Duan told the 1,033 delegates: "In order to keep party ranks clean, following this congress we must resolutely expel from the party, as soon as possible, all opportunists, all those whose revolutionary spirit has been paralysed, exploiters, speculators, people involved in corruption and bribery and oppressors of the masses."

Mr Phan Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers, reporting on the economy, emphasized Vietnam's "acute problems" including shortage of clothing, housing, medicines and paper as well as energy, materials and transport.

Computer traps wealthy French

From Our Correspondent, Paris, March 28

The French Government has cast a tax net over about 200,000 wealthy Frenchmen with fortunes of more than three million francs (about £270,000).

A special commission has allowed the Government to link data stored in different computers to evaluate the status of taxpayers and calculate their dues.

Exasperated by tax fraud and with the Government badly needing money, M. Laurent Fabius, Minister for the Budget, asked the national committee, set up to safeguard computer data and

Gandhi praises Britain

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi, March 28

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, described as "exceedingly good and satisfying" her discussions with Mrs Thatcher on bilateral economic relations when she arrived home from London yesterday.

Mrs Gandhi said her visit had brought a closer understanding between the two countries on the security problems of the region and North-South issues. As far as

This week one of Britain's two Vulcan bomber bases closes: old aircraft are being phased out before new ones are ready to replace them.

Can the RAF shut that open window?

If the Russians were thinking of attacking the West they could do worse than choose the end of this year or the beginning of next when a home-built "window of vulnerability" is opening in the skies above Europe in general and Britain in particular. By then the number of aircraft in the RAF's front line will have fallen by 30 — or by more than 100 when compared with the strengths planned only three years ago.

The cause of the air gap is the RAF's biggest re-equipment programme since the 1930s, which will see the multi-role Tornado replacing, ultimately, five more venerable types. But the reason why the gap is not being plugged in advance is largely financial.

Air staff at the Ministry of Defence realized as long ago as 1978 that there would not be enough air crews to enable a simultaneous phasing-in and phasing-out of combat squadrons. Instructors for both flying and weapon training would have to be taught all the Tornado's tricks before pilots and navigators could start intensive conversion courses on the new machine.

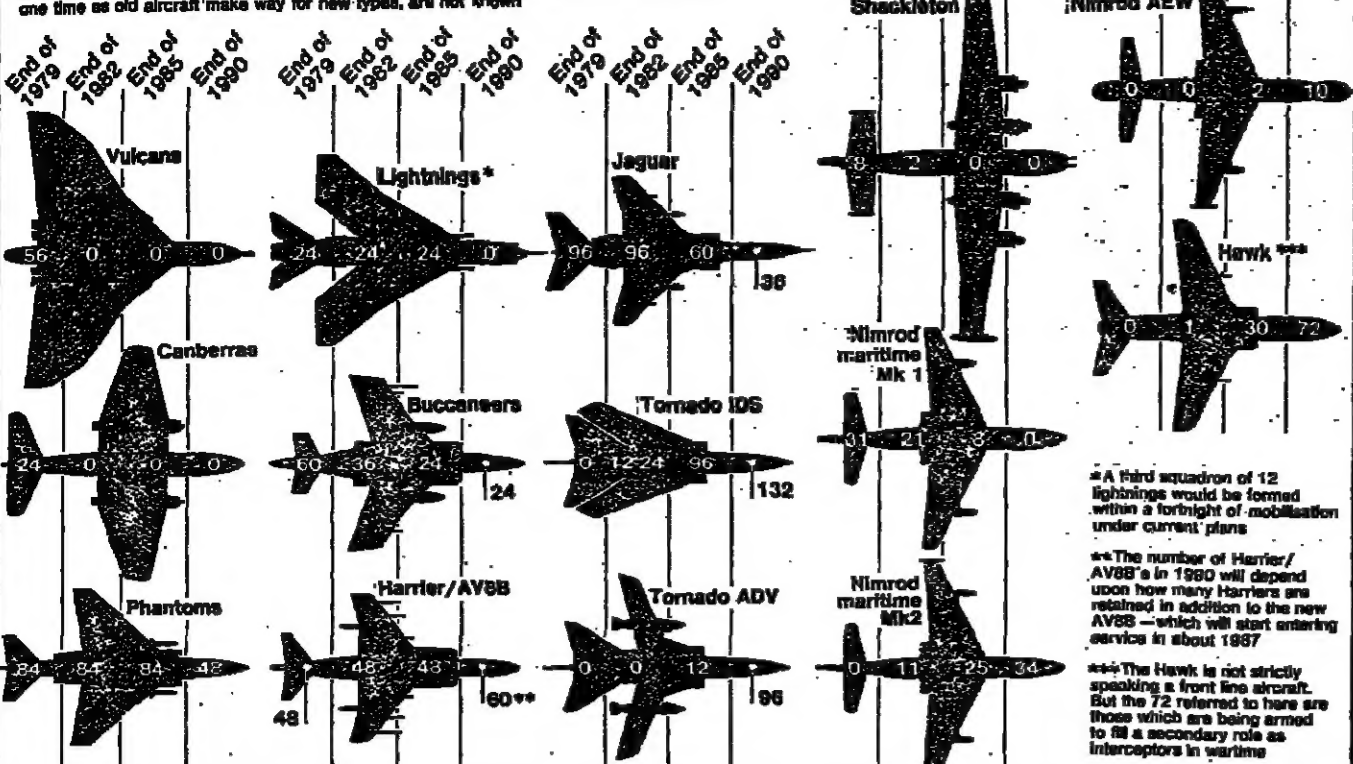
What they did not, could not, appreciate then was that continuing money troubles at the ministry would prompt the Government to accelerate the withdrawal of outgoing machines like the Vulcan bombers and Canberras, while at the same time preventing a speed-up in the production of Tornado.

By early next year, as a result, the RAF will have paid their last respects to 56 Vulcans, some 24 Canberras, photo-reconnaissance aircraft, about 24 Buccaneers and six Shackleton airborne early warning (AEW) planes. In addition, plans have also been squeezed out by financial pressures.

The ministry insists that the Tornado go-slow will

The air defence gap

General note: Figures are estimates in most cases, partly because precise figures at any one time as old aircraft make way for new types, are not known.



and an increase in the number of Jaguar strike aircraft at Bruggen, West Germany, from 48 to 60, have had to be abandoned.

By then, of course, Tornados will have started entering front-line service with the first squadron being formed this summer at Honington, Suffolk, and the second early next year at Marham, Norfolk. As was announced last month, however, plans to accelerate the production of Tornado from 44 to 60 a year between 1982 and 1984 have also been squeezed out by financial pressures.

The ministry insists that the Tornado go-slow will

affect only the introduction of the air defence variant (ADV) as opposed to the interdictor/strike (IDS). Even the ADV, according to Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, will be delayed by only a few months. RAF sources say that Tornado IDS aircraft will start rolling out to their airfields "in earnest" next year. Even so they will not have recovered from what they call "the dip" or "the bathtub effect" until the end of the decade.

Britain has suffered from a chronic shortage of aircraft, particularly fighters and interceptors, for the last 20

years. This is mainly the fault of the Macmillan Government which decided in the 1957 White Paper that the next war would probably be fought with long range nuclear missiles and that the strength of the conventional RAF, with its manned aircraft squadrons patrolling the skies above Britain, could be safely run down.

That was in the days of NATO's tripwire strategy and when the alliance switched to the present doctrine of "flexible response" following the Soviet build-up in nuclear weapons, there was an obvious need to build up the depleted squadrons once again. But by then, Britain

had moved from the never-had-it-so-good days of the 1950s to the never-had-it-so-bad days of the 1970s, and the RAF, fighting for funds, has never been able to catch up.

The Soviet Union has about 450 long-range bombers which the RAF believe could be targeted on Britain in wartime. For the last 20 years or so the RAF has had fewer than 100 fighters and interceptors to put up against this potential threat. By 1990, however, the introduction of nearly 100 ADV Tornados to front-line squadrons in Britain and continental modernization of

a number of Phantoms should have raised the United Kingdom Air Defence strength to nearly 150. Up to 72 Hawk trainers are also being modified to take the Sidewinder missile which should give them a useful fighting capacity in wartime.

As many of the Soviet aircraft would have to risk attrition by passing through other Nato air space on their flight to Britain, all this — the RAF say — will give their crews better odds than they have been used to.

The RAF are to receive 385 Tornados altogether, comprising 220 IDS and 165 ADVs. Other aircraft to come into service during the decade are 60 or more improved AV8B Harriers, the Nimrod AEW squadron in Britain and the new Mark-2 Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft with its unique Searchwater radar. But the abandonment of plans for a replacement for the low-level Jaguar has forced the RAF to make adjustments elsewhere until a super-sonic descendant of the Hawk can be developed for the mid-1990s (an Anglo-American agreement on a demonstrator programme is expected soon).

But first the RAF have to ensure that nobody tries to fly through their open window — which will even cause a draught or two in Brussels. The disappearance of the Vulcans will remove an element in NATO's so-called theatre nuclear forces. The Vulcans after all, at one time carried Britain's strategic deterrent. The Tornados have a combat radius of 870 miles, only half that of the Vulcans, and will need time — probably six months — to work up in their nuclear role.

Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

The woman whose life's work was child's play

It is now taken more or less for granted that children's play tells a lot about their state of mind, their wishes and fears, their difficulties and strengths, just as children's drawings reveal stages and hang-ups in their development. That this is so is due to a great extent to the work of Melanie Klein, born 100 years ago tomorrow.

When Melanie Klein psychoanalysed her first child patients in 1919 — as young as two and three-quarters — words carried the main traffic of therapeutic communication and children who wet their beds intractably, broke their toys, naturally, would not talk, would not have incessant nightmares, were trapped in their own inarticulacy. Melanie Klein scrutinized every aspect of their behaviour with closest attention. She found that if she accurately interpreted to a child the meaning of his behaviour, however improbable that meaning might seem to an adult, the child recognized it. The recognition was reflected in obvious relief or increased anxiety and, by a process of further interpretation and further change, the child was freed to move more naturally in the world around it.

From these clinical observations she constructed, over the years, a framework of psychoanalytic theory which is dense, complex and, to many people, speculative and highly suspect. Her theoretical papers, the best known of which are *Love, Guilt and Reparation* (1937) and *Envy and Gratitude* (1957), are labyrinthine in their complexity. But so is the infrastructure of human personality. Her detailed accounts of day-to-day work with children in analysis, particularly *Narrative of a Child Analysis* (1961), are easier going and affect the reader at many levels.

She was like someone, a very clever and determined someone, who sees a cat, knows it goes or won't go, and with little mechanical knowledge tries to work out what goes on under the bonnet by watching it. Since then many of her theoretical concepts have been supported by advances in developmental science. It is now known that physiologically and neurologically babies are very much more sophisticated than they were ever thought to be, their senses and perceptions much finer. If such developmental discoveries are not accepted, it is not improbable that the parallel capacity for thoughts and feelings in babies and young children has also been generally underestimated.

Melanie Klein, working backwards, always, from clinical observation, deduced intense activity: the seeds of imagination, creativity, the sense of right and wrong; the matrices for love and hate, vitality and lethargy, delight and despair in active operation from the start.

According to her theory, babies are born with a disposition both to survive and give up, the life instinct and the death instinct. They have an emotional relationship to the mother, or to the mother that most concern them at any given moment. The awareness grows that these external objects have an existence of their own and the power to gratify or deny. The baby splits its response to this discovery between love and hate in the primitive way available to it. This leads to feelings of rage alternating with content — not necessarily related to external events but to the baby's imaginative activity concerning them. It has moods of its own that do not seem related to anything actually happening, but that are linked to

feeling about previous and anticipated experience.

By about four to six months the baby has realised that the powerful "breast" with its good and bad aspects, is part and parcel of the same separate person. It realises that love and hate are directed towards the same source — the mother — and has to deal with the infinitely more complicated and alarming implications of this discovery. How it does this, whether it is able to handle the outside world to an extent reasonably compatible with a comfortable existence within it, or whether the outside world remains an anarchic extension of its own self filled with apparitions and objects with menacing life of their own is crucial to further development.

This is the period of life, the kind of development and relations to objects, that Melanie Klein explored in depth under the headings of paranoid-schizoid position and depressive position. These positions are concerned with the biological processes of feeding and excreting and contain fantasies about the parents' bodies: breast, penis, faeces, babies, and the anxieties that go with them. The positions are not firm, but overlapping, and grow on one another. In the opinion of one of the new

generation of Kleinian analysts, "It's an original map of unknown territory; a rough map which people modify and amplify, but its still the best map we have." Melanie Klein's observations of the mental development of infants, and the distortions it is liable to, have significance for another major area of human pathology. They open up a pathway into the understanding of madness. Psychotics' manic-depressive, schizophrenic, and so on, out of touch with reality that they have to be sequestered or drugged can be thought about in terms of regression to the infantile states she described.

Her ideas caused an uproar in the Thirties among analysts in this country — the ones who have been living since 1926. They are still highly controversial. "You can talk Melanie Klein language to a four-year-old," said a professor of paediatrics, "and it understands instinctively. But you talk Melanie Klein to a 40-year-old, and you find her overbearing, inflexible and 'grossly overrated'." Friends found her warm, lively and fun to be with. She loved being taken to the theatre and couldn't resist parties. In 1960 she died, leaving the dark pool she delved into considerably ruffled and brilliantly illuminated — in parts.

Cynthia Kee

Gore Vidal and his campaign roadshow

The photograph that Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward gave to Gore Vidal in 1959 commands centre spot in the living room of the author's Hollywood Canyon home. It shows Vidal holding the Newman's baby daughter, Neil and is inscribed "always a godfather... never a God".

Gore Vidal may not aspire to the Kingdom of Heaven but in the last few weeks his signs have been trained on an only slightly less exalted locale — the US Senate.

Vidal's campaign to become the democratic nominee for the California Senate seat vacated by retiring Republican S. I. Hayakawa, is by no means your run-of-the-mill political exercise.

Vidal, of course, although known from East Coast to West as a viciously witty, acerbic social commentator and television personality, is also a novelist, playwright and screenwriter whose works include 1876, *Burr*, *Murder, Mystery, and the Creation*. He is an unrepentant intellectual elitist who should at first sight be as comfortable in the left reaches of the Democratic Party as Norman St John-Stevas would be on the Labour benches of the House of Commons.

In a colourful career Vidal, considered by many to be America's most irreverent man of letters, has acted as chief irritant to the Kennedy White House, and *belle noire* to such conservative luminaries as the New York social scene as Norman Mailer and Truman Capote. His most famous brawl, however, was on television when in front of millions of viewers he called the conservative columnist and commentator William Buckley a "crypto Nazi".

Now, by his entry into the Senate race he is embarking on another battle, this time challenging California's enigmatic Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to become the Democratic Party banner carrier for their eventual showdown with the Republicans in November.

Suddenly it is Vidal who has become the chief thorn in the side of the coasting governor, the latest recipient of the rapier-like barbs that Vidal cannot resist hurling his way. Vidal instantly dubbed Brown "Lord of the Flies" in reference to the Governor's mishandling of the Medford crisis last year.

Nursing a hot drink to help him overcome an attack of bronchitis, the silver-haired patrician author at least looks the part of the senator, a role his heritage suggests is not such an unlikely one after all. As a child he spent many hours escorting his blind grandfather, Senator Thomas Gore of Oklahoma, to the US Capitol building in Washington.

In 1960 he ran unsuccessfully for Congress in New York as a Democrat and outpolled the party's presidential candidate John F. Kennedy in the upstate district.

"I wasn't sure I was going to run this time," he says, "but I had to find out how people felt about war, peace and taxes. I've really been campaigning for the last two years, delivering my state of the Union address all over California."

Vidal's standard speech, delivered more often than not to packed campus audiences, his hard at what he sees as the founding fathers really did sign the Emancipation Proclamation and we have been living through the looking glass ever since.

Vidal on Reagan:

"He is not clear about the difference between Medici and Gucci. He knows Nancy wears one of them."

Vidal on Weinberger:

"Now there's a loose gun; he's getting ready for nuclear war... all by himself, I hope."

Vidal on the US:

"We are like an aged Clark Kent rushing back into our telephone booth."



nuclear war and his proposals that a flat tax be levied on the gross adjusted income — or net revenues — of all corporations.

They contribute only 9 per cent of the budget, whereas 20 years ago their contribution was 40 per cent. Under Reagan they will ultimately be exempted from any taxes whatsoever."

Vidal maintains that at 56 "I don't need money and I don't need glory. I have a certain sense of frustration about the way the country is going and people seem to find my approach appealing."

The press certainly does. Vidal's entry has brought a welcome whiff of energy into a race that was lacklustre and predictable.

The latest polls still show Vidal, whose opponents claim he spends most of his time in his Italian villa, very much an also-ran, although the candidate insists that his own private research indicates he has edged ahead of Fresno Mayor Daniel K. Whitehurst and State Senator Paul Carpenter, the other Democratic candidates, and is closing the gap on Brown, who has 51 per cent of the vote with 45 per cent undecided. Vidal points out that he also has an astonishing 38 per cent recognition factor.

"I'm part of the furniture," he explained. "I've been on TV for over 30 years. And look what TV did for Ronald Reagan. It's all a bit chilling, I mean Malcolm Muggeridge

might have been Prime Minister of England if he'd bothered to take a seat in the House."

Since announcing his candidacy, Vidal's office has been besieged with offers of help reminiscent of the enthusiasm generated by the early Eugene McCarthy presidential campaign in 1968. His "peace" candidacy instantly brought him thousands of volunteers virtually every day after getting into the fray. So much so that he hired Phyllis Nesmith, who once worked for California senators Alan Cranston and John Tunney, to coordinate the race.

"He's not like other candidates," she says, "who must have every moment choreographed. He doesn't need to be told what to do. He's arousing the deepest populist sentiment as well as appealing to the intelligentsia as he always has."

When he actually gets out among the public looking for support he comes across like a combination of Mort Sahl and Tom Lehrer. The other day he marched into the enemy camp braving the members of the ultra-conservative Comstock Club in Sacramento, which also happens to be the state capital and the home turf of Governor Brown. Nine thousand people, including top military brass, businessmen and community leaders, showed up.

Always an evocative phrase-maker, he declared: "We are like an aged Clark Kent rushing back into our telephone booth" referring to America's self-imposed role as international policeman. He also referred to Reagan and his Bel Air Crusader as "Reagan's wealthy Los

Angeles kitchen cabinet — 'are trying to stir up American sentiment for military involvement in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Luckily, this particular group are very vague about history and geography. I know for a fact that Mr Reagan is not clear about the difference between Medici and Gucci. He knows Nancy wears one of them'."

Even grim predictions of nuclear war are delivered with humour. "Now there's a loose gun," he says, referring to Reagan's Defence Secretary, Weinberger is getting ready for nuclear war... all by himself, I hope." Of course the message he delivers is public, coming from the urbane, aristocratic Vidal. The same message from say Jane Fonda's politically volatile husband Tom Hayden would have left the Comstock audience stone cold.

After a full day of interviews Vidal relaxes and turns again to the chief object of his scorn, Governor Brown, who so far has managed to avoid direct confrontation with Vidal. But when he made serious noises about getting into the race, recalls Vidal, a top Brown aide paid a special visit to him.

He told me that a Congressional seat in Northern California was becoming vacant, as was a place on the Board of Regents of the University of California. He told me also that a chair of English (\$80,000 a year) had just been created at a conveniently located university. Of course," he says, "it could have been sheer coincidence that they all came up at the same time."

Ivor Davis

THE TIMES DIARY



Has Elizabeth Taylor been lunching with a confidence cricketer? On Friday both the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Express* reported that the star had been taking her midday refreshments with a wealthy wine merchant called Peter Dominic.

Now there are hundreds of Peter Dominic wine shops up and

down the country, but there is in fact no Peter Dominic. The chain was founded by Paul Dathieu, a Scot of French parentage, who took Peter Dominic as his trade name in 1930s. It now belongs to Maxwell Joseph's Grand Met, and its managing director is Ian Ritchie, who firmly denies having enjoyed what the *Express* called a "long and languorous lunch" with Liz Taylor. On the other hand he says he will happily oblige if she likes to call.

golden plus free board and lodging. Delighted at the young man's success, Joseph's parents unabashedly pressed upon him their elder daughter, Maria Anna. "Haydn was simply too decent a fellow to decline," says Robbins Landon, author of the composer's definitive five volume biography and founder of the Haydn Society, with unconvincing pride. "Even as a young man, he was always a gentleman. Of course the marriage," he adds with regret, "was a disaster."

On sale in a North London off-licence, cheap wine labelled Grenouilleau.

Papal dictates

An attempt to placate the Maternal Union of Journalists — upset about plans for press reporting of the Pope's forthcoming visit to Britain — is in the offing.

Catholic Information Services, who are co-ordinating media coverage, are hoping to discuss with the journalists an NUJ complaint that it was not consulted about vetting arrangements which have been introduced in the light of last year's attempt on the Pope's life.

The union is upset by a request for detailed personal information from journalists before the CIS decides who will be allowed to report the visit. Jacob Eccles, deputy general secretary of the union, advised his members in a recent circular not to supply "unnecessary personal details... such as sex, height, home address and passport number" because "an enquiry I have found that Scotland Yard is behind the demand for these details."

"The information," he adds, "will plainly go into the Police National Computer, and we know how that has already been misused."

The CIS says that it consulted several journalists, the Newspaper Society, and the Newspaper Publishers Association before finalising its request for details. Scotland Yard says that the information will be destroyed after the visit.

Redressing history

Having ordered civil servants out of jackets and ties and into national dress, President Zia Ul-Haq of Pakistan is now ordering a change of clothing for Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the father of the nation.

In many thousands of portraits Jinnah appears in western dress. He appears in collared shirts and Pakistani banknotes, his head covered with a lamb's wool cap. Jinnah is remembered as a fastidious dresser who shot an elegant cuff and favoured two-tone shoes and spats. Zia wants Jinnah to be represented in the close-fitting, high-buttoned kurta known as the shawlani, a garment Jinnah wore only occasionally. The president thinks it more suitable than western clothing.

Accordingly, artists are taking part in a competition, with a prize of £2,500, painting Mr Jinnah in a shawlani. The winning portrait, selected by the president, will be the official portrait for government offices and banknotes.

Novel claims

Desmond Clarke of the Book Marketing Council claims some success for the Best of British Authors promotion. Five of the chosen few — William Golding,

Iris Murdoch, John Fowles, Margaret Drabble and Anthony Burgess — have made brief appearances on the paperback bestseller lists, temporarily nudging aside books about the cube, cookery and the royal family.

Clarke is picking the 20 Best of Young British Novelists" (his emphasis). There was considerable (though largely artificial) controversy among the literati about his first list, which Clarke ducked by saying they were intended to be representative of the Best, and had not themselves been nominated as the Best.

Some of the Best of British authors may be helping Clarke the young novelists to feature in the next promotion. Clarke clearly hopes for an even more vigorous literary row over the new selection. It will not be all youthful impetuosity, though. The qualifying age for a Young Novelist is set at 45.

One involves D. M. Thomas's best-selling novel *The White Hotel*. In a letter to the TLS, with lengthy quotations to illustrate the point, D. A. Kenrick says that Part V of Thomas's book "is in fact a superficially reworked version of the historical accounts in *Bab' Yar*... Many of Thomas's vivid passages of material description may be moving accounts of shocking

incident, are taken more or less verbatim from *Bab' Yar*. *Bab' Yar* by Anatoli Kuznetsov was published in translation here in 1970.

The other case was spotted by a reviewer, David Nokes, who says that to those familiar with E. P. Thompson's *The Making of the English Working Class*, the language of Peter Berresford Ellis's newly published *The Liberty Tree* has a distinctly second-hand feel... one has an unmistakable sense of *deja vu*. Ellis's book, Nokes says, "is an unacknowledged novelization of Thompson's theme."

D. M. Thomas, who does have a fine print reference to use of material from *Bab' Yar* on his copyright page, will reply next week. The week after that several contributors will be asked to join the debate.

LWT's posters for *The Spy Who Loved Me*, shown on ITV last night, announce: "A British spy who prefers women." The company added a teasing ready-made graffiti, exclaiming: "It must be... That did not stop sharp-angled feminists appending their own own comment in aerosol paint: 'Who can blame her?'"

Quiz answers

1. We did. British living standards fell further behind those of our European partners.
2. The Transglobe Expedition.
3. William Whitelaw, praised by Margaret Thatcher, according to Denis Healey.
4. Smokers in the Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco.

The V and A unveils its cast of 500

When the Victoria and Albert Museum unveils its restored Cast Courts to the public on Wednesday, someone will surely ask Sir Roy Strong what has gone wrong. The cast courts, described as the "glory of the V & A" were originally opened in 1873 to house plaster reproductions of works of art from other museums.

It has taken seven years to restore the first of the cast courts, the Victorian cast court, to its appearance of 109 years ago. Among its 500 monuments are Trajan's Column from Rome, the Angevin tombs from Fontevault and the Porphyry of the Gloria from Santiago de Compostela. The original colour scheme faithfully reproduced on the walls is terracotta and dark green.

Yet visitors will find themselves deprived of the vista through to the second room, the Italian cast court. There the colour scheme should be the reverse of that in the first room, dark green relieved with terracotta. Instead the room has been painted in a dirty bitter orange, which clashes so badly with the colour scheme in the first court that a wall has had to be raised between the two.

The Italian cast court will not go on show this week, but is due to open later in the year. Some

museum staff wistfully hope that the damage to the restoration scheme might still be put right first.

Looking back

Was the signing of the Treaty of Rome 25 years ago a total reverse for Europe? It seems so from the publicity brochure issued by the EEC to commemorate the anniversary. The archive photograph of the signature ceremony in Rome has been printed back to front — unless perhaps the founding fathers really did sign the Emancipation Proclamation and we have been living through the looking glass ever since.

Unheard Haydn

A broken heart is hidden behind this week's British premiere of Josef Haydn's newly found *Salve Regina*, to be broadcast by the BBC World Service for the 250th anniversary of his birth. The American born Cardiff musicologist who discovered the scores in an Austrian monastery, tells me it was composed in 1756 for the ceremony at which Haydn's sweetheart, Josepha Keller took her vows as a nun. The penniless composer had wanted to marry Josepha, but her parents betrothed her instead to an established spouse of more guaranteed constancy.

Ironically, shortly after Josepha disappeared behind the veil, Haydn's fortunes improved dramatically when he was appointed music director to Count Morzin in Vienna, with a salary of 200

David W

Some island of polit

Cynthia Kee

Ivor Davis

Elizabeth Taylor

Redressing history

Novel claims

Quiz answers

The V and A

Looking back

Unheard Haydn

The CIS says

Has Elizabeth

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In a letter to the

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE MEXICAN DOMINO

El Salvador is a small, far away country of which we know little. It is barely 8,000 square miles large, with a population of four and a half million. It is not a place which is used to the clash of great issues. It has not lived much in the eye of history. On the contrary, it has muddled along with its neighbours — import little dictators — ruled by one junta or another in that part of the world which deservedly gave us the expression "banana republics".

Why therefore has its election yesterday caused such widespread interest across the world? The choice before the Salvadoran electors is a choice between the extreme right and the less extreme right. In a Central American context the only thing noteworthy about that is that there is any choice at all.

It would seem inconceivable, therefore, of United States policy makers to expose their global power and reputation to the whims of Salvadoran ballots and the bullets which accompany them. Yet that is what seems to have happened. The American obsession with El Salvador has been portrayed as a systemic reaction against any apparent communist movement by a President from the West who is used to firing from the hip. There is clearly more to it than that.

Rightly or wrongly, the United States view of the Salvador election, and all developments in Central America, has global consequences for us all. The key to this is the relationship with Mexico. It is a complicated, difficult relationship, covering energy, water, frontier disputes, uncontrollable immigration and a whole history of missed opportunities and misunderstandings. It is, in a sense, a domestic relationship

though a prickly one on both sides. So many Mexican immigrants have come to the United States — legally and illegally — that there are large areas of the West and South West which contain local Mexican majorities. Mexico is thus crucially important to the United States both for domestic reasons and for geopolitical ones. It is truly Washington's backyard.

So there is in the United States a general and understandable strategic preoccupation with Mexico. There is a concern at the dreadful consequences should the relationship sour to the point where Mexico could be considered permanently hostile to the United States as Cuba is. For any president — not just a man of President Reagan's hue — those circumstances would mean that the enemy was truly at the gate. It has been the Administration's view that the subversion of Central America by the Soviet Union set off a chain of dominoes in the mind. And why not? Any sensible strategist in the Kremlin, beset by the problems of China, Afghanistan, Iran and Poland, would be tempted to ease the burden by applying some of the same medicine to the United States in its own most sensitive sphere of interest.

However, the danger for the United States lies in its reluctance to accept that the Mexicans are not just part of the process to detoxify Central America. They are central to it. The initial American reaction to Mexican involvement in peace-making diplomacy was cool, but it has improved since then in spite of a basic lack of conviction in Washington that the Mexicans really see the danger as vividly as they should. That must surely be left to the Mexicans

themselves, since their own contribution to the stability of the Caribbean basin must, to be successful, be a spontaneous one and not just resentful and reluctant acquiescence to pressure from the United States.

The strategic danger of a fallen Mexico should be obvious to all Europeans. Washington's preoccupation with such circumstances would gravely weaken the American will and ability to maintain its commitment to European defence. The connection between El Salvador and Mexico may well be arguable, within the United States and between the United States and Mexico. The domino theory always is arguable. It was argued forcefully throughout the Vietnam war, and discounted. Yet history has vindicated it there. It is argued again now in Central America, and can only be seriously discounted if the Mexican relationship with Washington remains strong enough to withstand any domino effect from their less reputable neighbours in the south.

From Europe it is not munitions which are needed, but moral support, and a greater measure of understanding of the fears which drive American policy makers to defend what are apparently indefensible regimes in their own backyard. West Europe should show that understanding by taking the initiative to share the burden of Western defence elsewhere in the world outside the Nato area as well as within it. The United States might then feel less isolated in its concern about Central America; and therefore less jumpy. There is no point in criticising Mr. Reagan for being a man who fires from the hip, if that criticism itself is just another shot from another hip.

GUNBOAT OR BURGLAR ALARM?

It is bad luck on Mr. Nott that the South Georgia incident should have blown up just when he is facing criticism at home (including that of his former colleague, Mr. Keith Speed) for his decision to withdraw HMS Endurance from service, and while HMS Endurance herself is still in the South Atlantic.

It is fairly clear that the presence of the Argentine scrap-merchants on South Georgia is intended as a direct challenge to British sovereignty. Diverging Endurance to South Georgia was, in the circumstances, an obvious way of reasserting that sovereignty, but those in Britain who have claimed that this clearly establishes the case for keeping Endurance in service may be going too soon. Endurance is equipped for polar exploration, not for naval warfare. If the Argentines really mean to use their naval strength to seize South Georgia by force, Endurance will not be able to stop them. Her 20mm Oerlikon guns would be no match for the

Argentine frigates carrying Exocet missiles that are now in her immediate vicinity. And anyway, she cannot be kept cruising indefinitely off South Georgia.

The same, unfortunately, is true of the Falkland Islands proper, whose fate is a much more serious issue and is, no doubt, what is really at stake in the South Georgia incident. South Georgia itself is not part of the Falklands in any but an administrative sense: it is nearly twice as far from them as they are from Argentina, and it has no permanent human population. The only "indigenous mammals" according to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, are seals, and in the present state of international law seals do not enjoy the right of self-determination. The people of the Falkland Islands do, or rather should. They have the misfortune to belong to a category of human beings for whom this right is not recognized by the majority of the United Nations General Assembly: those whose presence in their homeland is

historically linked to that of a colonial power, and whose territory appears "naturally" — by some rather ill-defined law of geography — to belong to a neighbouring state. The Belizeans got away with it — just. The Gibraltarians seem unlikely to in the long run. The Northern Irish are still going through their trial by ordeal.

The Falkland Islanders have to face the unpleasant fact that Britain is no longer a world power and that the rest of the world is unlikely to come to their rescue. If they are to stay where they are in the next century it can only be on the basis of an arrangement with their South American neighbours. Britain should help them get the best arrangement possible, and to that should be prepared to put a military price on any Argentine smash-and-grab raid. But for that purpose two or three well-armed and speedy patrol craft, similar to those commissioned for service in the North Sea, would be a lot more use than HMS Endurance.

David Wood

Some desert island discs of politics

This personal political column began 24 years ago and ends today; and I'm afraid there is no denying that it is easier to launch such enterprises than to try to finish them off. There is for instance an itch — which I find no difficulty in resisting — to try to go out on a rather high note, saying profound or pretentious things and distilling into 800 words the lessons of half a lifetime. Equally, there is a temptation to be over-sentimental about politics and politicians, and here I confess my vulnerability. I need a stratagem for nostalgia, and one lies to hand that may serve its turn.

More or less since Marconi invented wireless, Mr. Roy Plomley has been running a programme called *Desert Island Discs*, and I shall assume that one week at his wit's disposal for somebody to maroon at Portland Place, he chose me. There would be a slight difficulty in that I am unmusical, with an ear for nothing other than military bands, but Plomley's urbanity would smoothly overcome that. He would accept that my discs could be political speeches made since the War, and he would no doubt polish an unwinding joke that for one week he would be dealing with slipped discs.

Clearly some of the Westminster disc chosen would have to deal with high occasions and the greater men of our time. But there was a day when the House of Commons had abundant wits and humorists, often men who never achieved much yet who could fill the Chamber with laughter as it is rarely filled nowadays. So, along with the

likes of Churchill and Attlee, I needs to be a mixture of small and large names, of those now almost forgotten and many of them dead.

Churchill and Attlee I would dispose of at one stroke by using parts of their speeches, when they were in the House of Commons, celebrating Churchill's 80th birthday in the House of Commons, and when Churchill, by presenting him with the ill-fated Sutherland portrait, that the old man was not alone in blushing on sight. Attlee, with his clipped utterances, was superb and generous in the old-fashioned Commons way. He said of Churchill that, like Caesar, he had been the historian of his own campaigns, and added, himself a man of Gallipoli, that Churchill's conception of a Gallipoli landing to break the deadlock of Flanders trench warfare was the one imaginative strategy of the 1914-18 war.

Another Westminster Hall occasion would provide a disc: the honouring by both Houses of General de Gaulle. The General stood at the top of the steps, tall and pear shaped, with his speech (in French) held rigidly down the seam of his right trouser leg. He spoke for at least 30 minutes without one glance at his script, yet those of us who checked it found him word perfect. His eyesight was failing and in his vanity he had memorized every syllable.

By now it would be time for a disc or two showing the House of Commons in its lighter moments, and that would bring in Mr. Harold Macmillan, eyes hooded like a hawk's, waiting on the Treasury Bench to avoid a trap being set for him by Ennys Hughes, a one-time son-in-law of Keir Hardie and a man much given to mischief. For years the Question Time duels between the two were a delight. Ennys was a near neighbour of mine and we travelled to and from Westminster together almost daily. A Russian speaker and translator, he used to stifle crowded suburban tube trains by reading *Pravda* to me oratorically in the

silences of unscheduled stops, or by reciting the breakfast-time news on Moscow Radio. Many of our neighbours regarded us as dangerous subversives.

Among the Commons humorists I should include a disc of a wind-up speech by Oliver Stanley. When he had 25 minutes to play with, he would spend the opening 20 charmingly teasing the Labour government, with not a hint of malice. Then he would relish a scolding five minutes dealing with a Bill that laid an axe at the roots of everything he believed in. He was the supreme political amateur.

But the master humorist was Alan Herbert, until university seats were abolished. He was, of course, a member of the *Punch* table, and it humiliates me to confess I once spent 45 minutes in the press gallery weeping with laughter as he toured the world discussing beer, and entirely forgot to take a shorthand note.

Another disc would go to Leslie Hale, a solicitor and now a Labour peer. (May he soon be well enough to be back in his seat.) Called up in the Army, he had proved to be an unmanageable barrister in the late 1940s as he delivered off the cuff the most brilliantly funny speech I ever heard in the Chamber about the deductions the Army made from the shilling a day it paid its conscripts.

Where the wits and humorists of politics have vanished to in recent years must be anybody's guess. Perhaps they are now guess. Perhaps the new school of members of the press gallery, at any rate, if I must be portentious on this occasion, their absence from debate is the saddest change that has occurred since I first began reporting Westminster politics, and that fact does something to ease passing into retirement.

The House of Commons takes itself too seriously by half, and has forgotten that the best weapon in the political armoury is still laughter.

Eye on long-term UK energy future

From Professor Ian Fells
Sir, The recent glut in oil production, which has led to lowered oil prices and threatens the stability of Opec, has been welcomed, albeit cautiously, by Western oil consumers. A 55 fall in world crude oil price should lead to an increase in industrial production in the West of 1 per cent and a slightly smaller rise in GDP across domestic products.

The United Kingdom position as both producer and consumer of oil is less clear but will probably be marginally favourable, although not as favourable as for Germany, France and Japan. What should happen now is that a depletion policy for the North Sea be defined and clarified to cope with periods of over-production. This might be difficult as the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill is speeding through Parliament, helped by the guillotine. One could hardly have chosen a worse time to sell off ENOC (British National Oil Corporation) and it will be a test of statesmanship of the Secretary of State for Energy whether or not he cuts a halt to the process, for the time being at least.

What is particularly sad but predictable is that the latest short-term hiccup in oil prices has already triggered the response that research into alternative sources of energy be halted. This response is encouraged by the continuing absence of any long-term government policy guideline on energy policy. Indeed, confidence in our energy future is repeatedly undermined by an acute lack of confidence in our own technology.

The latest manifestation of this is the impending PWR (pressurized water reactor) inquiry at Sizewell, due to take place next year. We have looked back nervously over our shoulders for 25 years at American nuclear technology, wondering whether to change to it, unlike the

Canadians, who have pressed ahead very successfully with their own brand of Candu (Canadian deuterium uranium) reactor.

The political expedient used to absolve any government from making a decision on a technical matter such as reactor choice is to hold a public inquiry and perhaps with our brand of democracy that is the right thing to do. The effect, I venture to predict, will not be a clear recommendation to go ahead and build a PWR reactor at Sizewell, but to discredit further the whole concept of nuclear energy and so confuse even more those responsible for planning our energy future. An expensive and unhelpful venture!

A sensible pragmatic policy would be not to interfere with oil and gas production from the North Sea, except to define clearly how fast it is to be developed, and to set a clear realistic coal production target for the Coal Board instead of having two sets of figures for coal production post-2000, one the Department of Energy's and a considerably higher one espoused by the Coal Board.

We should continue to construct, at a modest rate, advanced gas-cooled reactors in order to increase the nuclear component of our electricity supply and so free coal to substitute for oil where appropriate.

Energy policy is in the final analysis made by Parliament, but one can overdo the party politics and jeopardize our long-term energy future.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
March 23.

Trident purchase

From Mr Maurice E. Pinto
Sir, As an American living in Britain, I find that Mr Correlli Barnett (March 16) does not seem to understand why a technically up-to-date British nuclear deterrent — visibly and effectively independent of the United States — is in the best interests of both Britain and the United States.

The effectiveness of a deterrent is its credibility in the eyes of a potential aggressor; this credibility, in turn, is based on the aggressor's perception of 1, the potential enemy's technical competence to hit some key targets, and 2, his willingness to launch the attack.

It is difficult to say what will be the position of various United States governments in the decades to come regarding the appropriate response to an invasion, direct or indirect, of Britain or, for that matter, another member of the Western Alliance.

We can be sure, however, that Russia, or other potential aggressors that may emerge in the next 20 to 30 years, will be continuously evaluating the risks of the United States initiating nuclear holocaust in defence of Western Europe's independence. Inevitably, there will be periods when the risks seem small enough to be acceptable or, at the least, when internal political and tactical considerations render the American Government incapable of making the decision.

Obviously, the deterrent's credibility is immeasurably strengthened if the decision to launch a nuclear attack is in the hands of its own government, rather than if the

decision is to be made by a distant, albeit well wishing, ally. The operational qualities of Trident D-5 have been extensively discussed in the role of the weapons systems in maintaining the technical credibility of Britain's independent deterrent is obvious.

Whether or not the United States is prepared to risk nuclear destruction for the survival of an independent Britain and Western Europe is clearly in its national interest. If an independent British and, for that matter, French nuclear deterrent by virtue of its independence is solidly credible, then it is likely to deter aggression and, to that extent, operates very directly in the national interest of the United States.

The decision to invest in Trident D-5 really poses two quite different issues: 1, will future deterrence be able to use the deterrent; if not, why make the investment? and 2, will future British governments be willing to use the deterrent in defence of Western Europe; if not, can Britain really expect to retain its independence with all of Europe under Russian control?

The answer to the second question is almost certainly "no". It is interesting to note the great extent to which France has been able to retain its independence in the British national interest. What all of this shows is that a nation is most secure when its allies are prepared to accept ultimate responsibility for their own defence.

Mr Correlli Barnett seems to miss this point and it is crucial. Yours sincerely,
MAURICE E. PINTO,
55 South Edwards Square, W8,
March 18.

Labour membership

From Mr Max Morris
Sir, To get the record straight, I must add to your report (March 26) of the decision of the general management committee (GMC) of the Hornsey Labour Party to issue a membership card to Mr Tariq Ali, in defiance of an instruction from the national executive.

Under party rules, Mr Ali can only be a member in the Crouch End Ward, where he lives. Yet he is in the highest turnout of members in living memory, rejected his application by 44 votes to 18.

At the GMC, in addition to the six Crouch End delegates, there was a substantial minority against the proposal, which was carried by only 37 votes to 21 with six abstentions. The decision is clearly unconstitutional, can have no validity as far as Crouch End Ward is concerned, and the meeting was so informed by the secretary of the London Labour Party, who was present.

As chairman of the Crouch End Ward I intend to carry out the national executive's instruction and will not allow Mr Ali to attend any ward meeting or participate in any ward activity.

Yours faithfully,
MAX MORRIS,
44 Crouch End Road,
Crouch End, N8,
March 27

Trade restrictions

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts
Sir, In order to discourage rapacious taxi owners from defacing their cabs with hideous advertisements could the offenders be in fairness be designated trade vehicles and thereby denied access to the royal parks?

HUGH CASSON,
President,
Royal Academy of Art,
Piccadilly, W1,
March 17.

Musical barricades

From Mr Richard Osborne
Sir, London concertgoers will be dismayed by the controversy (*The Arts*, March 26) surrounding the proposed Brahms and Beethoven cycles by the Los Angeles and Vienna Philharmonic orchestras in 1983-84.

The rule that no foreign orchestra shall give no more than two London concerts in any one year has not always been in force. In the early 1960s the Berlin Philharmonic gave memorable Beethoven and Brahms cycles at the Royal Festival Hall. Cardus thought them "prodigious", yet, midway through the Berliners' Brahms cycle, Walter Legge's Philharmonia played a Bruckner Eight under Klempner which excited as much, if not more, critical acclaim.

On the present-day counterpoint, Legge never feared foreign competition; he merely determined to match it. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OSBORNE,
The Old Rectory,
Bradfield,
Berkshire,
March 26.

Palestine homeland

From Mr Barry N. Evans
Sir, I read, with great interest, the letter written by the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (March 24) on the Palestinian homeland.

Although I followed his line of reasoning, Ambassador Izzidin did not explain why, between the years of 1948 to 1967, when the dispossessed West Bank was inside Jordanian territory, Jordan didn't set up, or help to set up, a Palestinian state.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY EVANS,
60 Chambers Lane,
Wilmsden, NW10.

From Mr David M. Jacobs
Sir, It seems extraordinary that HE the Ambassador of Jordan (March 24) should use article 25

Cable controversy and freedom

From Dr Andrew Demopoulos
Sir, It would be a pity if the current enthusiasm for a system of cabled transmission of information were to cause us to lose sight of the need to preserve to the maximum possible extent the freedom of the individual to obtain (with dish aerials, etc) direct wireless access to the satellite transmissions of the future.

A cabled system offers variety and good quality of reception, in addition to the possibility of two-way communication. It is, however, characterized by the fact that input to it is restricted by the ground rules of the cabled system. These can lay down not only what kind of subject matter may be transmitted but also some yardsticks as to minimum standards.

Direct wireless reception of international television transmissions sent out by satellite will, if and when it comes, bypass such controls. This, I believe, will be no bad thing. National standards, however admirable, are never entirely free of some degree of national bias. The great merit of direct access to foreign transmissions — in spite of the inevitable unevenness of standards that these will present — is that it encourages a broader outlook. If there are risks these are on balance worth taking.

If freedom of wireless access were to be made (or remain) the general rule, for many people the neatness and convenience of cable will make this their first choice. There would, however, be few justifications for the coding or scrambling of wireless transmissions: copyright of confidentiality would probably be the main exceptions to the rule.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DEMOPOULOS,
Faculty of Law,
The University,
Southampton,
March 23.

From Mr Peter M. A. Cooke
Sir, There seems little doubt, as your leading article today (March 23) suggests, that cable television is to be the latest bandwagon. In your apparently unrestrained enthusiasm for the coming plith-

ora of channels, you make two claims which deserve closer consideration.

First, you say "the consumer need is there", though this claim is squeezed somewhat coyly between statements of the availability of the money and the technology. Is it? What evidence do you adduce? Or is the cable proposal yet another example of that ubiquitous philosophy — if it can be done, it should be done?

Secondly, you say "Nor is there any reason to believe that there any control of programme content ('contact' was in fact printed) is necessary when the viewer will have such a multitude of choices before him."

Given the intrusive nature of television as a medium, and its ready availability to all including the very young, I find this claim quite incredible.

One is forced to ponder the social impact of the potential explosion of readily-available "entertainment". Ever greater lassitude; ever less care and concern; ever less social contact. Surely the penetration of this pervasive medium of visual communication and the concurrent decline in standards of social and moral behaviour cannot continue indefinitely to be attributed to chance.

However, perhaps it is thought that there are minor drawbacks to so effective an opiate of the masses: 1984 is now indeed close. Yours faithfully,
PETER M. A. COOKE,
Desire Drive,
Cresta Drive,
Woodham, Weybridge,
Surrey.

From Mr D. G. Kent
Sir, I fear Mr D. Widdicombe (March 25) is being unduly suspicious. I would have expected a person's choice of daily newspaper to be as revealing as that of television programmes but I am not aware of newscasters (or delivery boys) being sworn to secrecy. Yours faithfully,
D. G. KENT,
51 York Avenue, SW14,
March 25.

Whither the GLC?

From Lord Plummer of St Marylebone

Sir, Anthony Grant, MP, is mistaken, in his letter of March 23, in assuming that in 1967 the newly elected Conservative GLC was "mesmerised" into taking over London Transport by the offer by Mrs Barbara Castle to write off its debts. He was not involved in the negotiations and may not be aware of the facts.

In 1967 the Government informed the GLC that either they could take over responsibility for overall policy and financial control of London Transport or a Passenger Transport Authority would be set up. The prospect of another unaccountable and revenue authority similar to the ILEA, with power to precept on the ratepayer, was considered unacceptable and we entered into negotiations with the Minister of Transport.

The Government first offered a 66% per cent write-off of the board's capital debt, but after protracted arguments they eventually agreed in 1969 to introduce further legislation to allow this to be increased to 100 per cent.

With the assent of the Leader of the Opposition we then agreed to proceed, having also obtained

an undertaking from the Government that they would deal with such major issues as the law, new techniques and administrative procedures to control traffic and parking.

We were well aware of the heavy responsibility and one of our objectives was to achieve a closer correspondence between those enjoying transport services and those paying for them, and the Government considered we were competent to hold that responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
PLUMMER,
Leader of the GLC, 1967-73,
House of Lords.

From Mr John Martin
Sir, When London Transport lowered fares six months ago it was reported that its staff would be receiving a wage rise to compensate for the reduction in value of their free travel.

There have now doubled, so presumably this will be taken into account during the current negotiations for a wage increase? On balance it may well be that the greatly enhanced value of the free travel perk could mean that no actual wage rise can be justified.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tycehurst Hill,
Loughton, Essex.

Ulster Assembly plan

From Mr Boyd Black

Sir, There is an alternative to Mr Prior's "concoction" which would receive widespread support and a "cross-community endorsement" in Northern Ireland. It is to govern Northern Ireland on the same basis as Scotland.

According to the most recent public opinion survey (NOP) the results of which were broadcast on Ulster Television's *Counterpoint* on February 12, 1982, but not widely reported, "full integration with Britain", which the practice would mean government along the same lines as Scotland and Wales, was the most acceptable option of all to the people of Northern Ireland.

The overwhelming majority (88

per cent) of the Protestants polled found it acceptable, while the Catholics polled were evenly divided, 45 per cent finding it acceptable, 45 per cent opposed and 10 per cent don't know. The overall figure of 74 per cent finding it acceptable (which doesn't include the don't knows) was well above the 70 per cent weighted majority that Prior wants in his proposed Assembly and higher than that for any other option.

In the interests of stability, the Government should seek to broaden the widespread assent which already exists for the "Scotland option" rather than proceed with its ill-fated initiative.

Yours faithfully,
BOYD BLACK,
10 Athol Street, Belfast.

Falklands incident

From Mr Thomas Pomeroy

Sir, Is it too much to hope that an official photographic record will be made of the whaling operations in the remote and desolate British position of South Georgia before disorderly Argentinian scrap-metal merchants remove all traces of them? Yours faithfully,
THOMAS POMEROY,
Avon House, Hartley Wintney,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Man to reckon with

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist

Sir, The following reminiscence may serve as a footnote to your account (*The Times* March 24) of the functions of the Home Office. Early in 1967, before taking up my post as Ambassador in Dublin, it was suggested to me that it might just possibly be useful if I were to make a call on the Home Office official who was concerned with the affairs of Northern Ireland. I was given a comprehensive view of a tranquil situation.

In leaving, I must have said something which implied that I believed this man to devote his entire official time to Northern Irish affairs. Indeed no: it was made clear that in addition to dealing with Northern Ireland he also covered such subjects as gambling, prostitution, unnatural vice, charities and taxis, not to mention the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

I remarked that this seemed a wide-ranging and burdensome set of responsibilities: which, I gave him the most trouble? Speaking with some feeling and raising his hands in the air, he replied: "No doubt whatever — the Isle of Man!"

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW GILCHRIST,
Arthur's Crags,
Hazelbank,
By Lanark.

I whose
was
play

about previous and about four to six is the baby has realised the powerful "breast" its good and bad is, in part and parcel of, is separate person. It is that love and hate are e — the mother — the same — deal with the and complicated and infinitely implications of the ter. How it does this, it is able to handle outside world to an reasonably compatible n it, or whether the extension of its own filled with apparitions of their own is crucial in development.

is the period of life, kinds of developments, relations to objects, the nie Klein explored in t under the headings of t-old-child position depressive position, e positions are con- e like feeding and sting and contain fas 5: breast, penis, faeces, 25, and the anxieties th with them. The position, not finite but overlap and ouch on one another. In opinion of one of the new

Lanie Klein: Her ideas caused an uproar

retention of the human mind. It is a small map of a rough p which per se is not a pily, but it is the best p we have.

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Front line: Joseph Beuys

The icon in action

Joseph Beuys's admirers claim that he is one of the world's greatest living artists, his detractors that he is an egocentric poseur. He may well be both. As a boy he collected and sketched ferns and animals' bones, objects with the double function of fetish and scientific specimen. As an adolescent he left home to work as a stonemason in a travelling circus. His life is a piece. He is both showman and shaman. He is in London to show his latest work, a complex installation entitled *Derrière espace avec introspection*, at the Anthony D'Offay Gallery.

"Aesthetic qualities do not exist," declares Beuys. "When human life is dignified then we can speak about aesthetics. Now there is work to be done." *Derrière espace*... like much of his other work, is physically messy, but its roughness is not the consequence of sloppiness. "My art is like a science," explains Beuys. "Every angle is developed out of a sophisticated system of mathematical reflections. It is almost, not because I am digging

back into the past but because I am imagining the future." Beuys has created an entire mythology based on his own biography and a symbolic language in which objects, materials and shapes that are important to him personally combine with the imagery of northern Europe's wastelands.

He was called up in 1940 and served as a fighter pilot. In 1943 he was shot down over the Crimea during a snowstorm. Nomadic Tartars found him unconscious in his plane's wreckage, took him back to their tent, covered his body with fat for warmth and wrapped him in felt for insulation. In saving his life they provided him with a philosophy of art and the imagery with which to express it. In Beuys's theory of sculpture felt and fat, signifying warmth, fluidity, the creative imagination and life itself, are opposed to the right-angled, crystalline principles of rational thought which, unless they are warmed by the imagination (as Beuys's iron rods are warmed by the felt in which they are wrapped) are cold as death. His work is an extension of his

personality. "Everyone can be an artist; this is my favourite slogan," he says. "All life is art." His clothes, the wide-brimmed felt hat, the rubber-soled shoes and the sleeveless huntsman's waistcoat, which he has worn constantly throughout his career, make him an icon.

His most resonant works have been "actions" in which he himself is his own medium. In 1965, on the occasion of his first public exhibition, he spent three hours explaining his art to a dead hare. His head covered in honey and gold leaf, he murmured inaudibly while the public watched through the windows. In 1974 he was carried on a stretcher to Rene Block's New York gallery where he spent a week in a cage with a wild coyote.

These actions, recorded in haunting photographs by Ute Klophaus, have a poetic intensity greatly enhanced by Beuys's own personal magnetism. "I am a transmitter," he says. He is dark-skinned and haggard. His smile is dazzling but rarely-used. He is as wild as his favourite hares — indeed, with his protruding upper



Caroline Tisdall

"Everyone can be an artist... All life is art."

Beuys can most easily be made to stick. He declares that "art in galleries which do not serve the social needs of the people is useless" but he himself earns large sums from the sale of his work. Even the blackboards he uses when lecturing are kept and displayed as objects of art. He has a justification, ready — "It is my duty to use any platform I can find to put across my important ideas" — but the contradiction raises questions about his integrity. There is something suspect about the way in which he has allowed himself to become the idol of a cult.

Nonetheless he is a man with a gift to disturb and fascinate, and he has created a new artistic language of great richness and subtlety. When he returns to Germany it will be to continue his current major project — the planting of 7,000 oak trees and the erection of an equal number of basic columns. He says he is doing it for the Green Party but the vision of his strange forest, half inert stone, half growing trees, transcends party politics.

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

Opera: John Higgins, in Paris, reviews Kiri Te Kanawa's first Tosca

All credit to the singers

Over the past year Jean-Claude Auvray has emerged as one of the most inventive of the new generation of French opera producers. Stagings as diverse in style as the classical vision of Rossini's *Tamara* at Aix last summer and the later *Rigoletto* at Basel with its East Side mobsters bear testimony to that. So perhaps *Tosca* was an odd choice for Auvray's first production at the Paris Opera, the house where he worked on the staff for a number of years. Puccini's drama and ample invention have rarely walked comfortably hand in hand.

Auvray confronted *Tosca* with one distinct advantage. Two of his principal colleagues came completely fresh to the work: Seiji Ozawa had not conducted the opera previously and Kiri Te Kanawa was taking on the title role for the first time. At least there should have been few preconceived ideas in those quarters. Elsewhere there were one or two obstacles. Yves Saint Laurent, who was chosen to design the clothes, withdrew some time ago. Then José Carreras, the highly experienced Cavaradossi who was to sing the opening performance, cancelled shortly before the first night. But even more serious, Auvray has numbered himself with the ugliest assembly of sets to have disfigured *Tosca* for some time. They are the work of Jean-Paul Chambres, who designed a perfectly decent *Hoffmann* for Florence the Christmas before last but who, in Paris, seemed determined to put the skids under Puccini.

Yet, despite offences to the eye, Auvray's view of *Tosca*, cogent and provocative, is still both visible and audible. It is that the opera from first to last is a tragedy. *Tosca* and Cavaradossi and so, the audience know they are unlikely to see that *cassino*, the love-nest they look forward to in the first act. The roll of percussion as the curtain falls on Act II comes from off-stage and it is a death rattle, not for Scarpia who lies dead on the floor, but for Cavaradossi who will be shot in the morning and for *Tosca* herself. It is a telling stroke and one to alert anyone in the audience not quite clear about the story.

Auvray throughout concentrates on his three principals. The first act is set in one of the unfinished side-chapels of Sant' Andrea della Valle, where the plaster seems still wet on the walls. It is used as a vestry rather than for praying and the sung arrive with the freshly laundered surplices to robe the choirboys before the day's *Tosca*. It brings Cavaradossi and *Tosca* right up against the audience.

Kiri Te Kanawa, in a flowing yellow summer robe, makes a marvellous entrance. Her eyes dart around the church: piety demands that the statue of the Madonna gets first attention with the bouquet of flowers, but then jealousy takes over rapidly as she sights Cavaradossi's painting. The second of her first act exits was equally impressive: the chapel walls split open to reveal the nave of the church — a somewhat cardboard structure — with a square of sunlight at the end, open-air protection against Scarpia's attentions.



Kiri Te Kanawa with Ernesto Veronelli

Miss Te Kanawa's voice was in a lush, soaring, easily with Puccini's vocal line, which has always seemed to lie well for her. "Vissi d'arte" in the next act was sung not as a confession of *Tosca*'s life-style but in a spirit of bitterness at the way she has treated her: it was all there in the last couple of lines, with the final "così" spat out in despair. After the delicate, soft opening the aria went slightly askew on the first night, but the recovery was quick, and Kiri Te Kanawa can already claim to be an outstanding *Tosca*.

She clearly inspired her Cavaradossi, Ernesto Veronelli, to give of his best. His upper register has a burnished clarity, but there is a certain rawness in the voice and, I suspect, not much support at the bottom. Nonetheless, Veronelli looks well in profile and there was a vigour in his performance which matches Ingvar Wixell's vocally heavyweight Scarpia, not exactly a subtle interpretation but one which exudes greed of every kind.

Jean-Paul Chambres provided him with an improbable marble apartment within the Palazzo Farnese and an impractical marble table, supported by beefy naked ladies, which stretches almost the length of the stage. The door of the torture chamber is spattered with dried blood, something Puccini's fastidious Scarpia would never have tolerated.

But then Scarpia would never have lived in so ugly a room. The lack of either visual style or unity was compounded when at the end of the act a crayon drawing of the Castel Sant' Angelo came into view.

Cavaradossi's last moments are spent by a huge parapet with a ramp running down to the centre of the stage for no other good reason than that it helps *Tosca* jump to her death. As she does so, an inverted view of the rooftops of Rome appears on the castle walls, which presumably means that *Tosca* went down head first.

A stormy reception greeted the curtain on the first night with the house apparently divided just about evenly between boos and rapturous cheers for the production team and for Seiji Ozawa, who took a long time to secure the right orchestral texture. But musical politics in Paris are so byzantine that the targets of derision are not always identifiable. For the singers, especially for Kiri Te Kanawa, Jean-Claude Auvray has made some visual errors, but from his soprano he has secured an outstanding performance.

Further performances of *Tosca* are today and on Wednesday and April 3rd, 5th, 12th, 16th, 20th, 24th and 27th. The opera returns to the repertoire at the end of July with cast changes. Kiri Te Kanawa is scheduled to sing on the dates marked †.

Television

A life of language

"Have you always been virgo intacta from the word go, 'Go?' Few words are allowed to escape undetected in *The Hothouse* (BBC 2), Harold Pinter's early mannerist comedy, and many are nervously examined for signs of fraud like coins at an assay.

Tiny maddening cadences are performed on individual examples — feminine, intimate, convalescent, delicate, rest and at the very end a most un-Pinter explanation is offered for what has taken place: the patients have murdered the entire staff of the psychiatric hospital save one because the director has had a Patient 6,459 pregnant and murdered Patient 6,457.

An explanation is about as necessary as a cuckoo's egg at the end of a play like this, for what matters is not the puppet-people inside it but the life of the language they use and the sight of a young playwright trying out theatrical techniques and conventions like new toys from a deep box, with a calculated thriller, etc. alternate with one another in a sequence of loosely connected routines that is often entertaining if nowhere near as ominous as we are, from time to time, told.

Louis Marks's production held the attention more or less throughout. Derek Newark had the toughest job to scale down the chaotic director for the small screen, so was often wonderfully obtuse; Angela Pleasence gave her unique and compelling impression of a Bisto Kid escaped from a detention centre; and best of all was James Grant as the one member of staff who escaped the massacre — civil, obedient, cruel and unsleeping, the snake in the nest.

Something has happened to clowns since I used to dread their angry, red and chequered incursions into the audience between animal acts in the circus. They have become gentler and, like conductors of symphony orchestras, very young. Soupy background arrangements of *Sondheim*, *Pagliacci* and *The Pirates* gave a Thelma Houston soft centre to *There Ought to be Clowns*, made for *Open Door* (BBC 2) by Clowyn Cavalcade, but the purpose of the programme — the need for a National Centre for Clowns, a museum, part training centre, part performance area — was a splendid one: the Covent Garden area would be ideal.

It is possible to evoke the great performers of the past — Johnny Dennis of the Players Theatre did a delicious Dan Leno suggesting that the living link between The Funniest Man on Earth, died at 43 and whose funeral crowd stretched three miles from Brixton to Tooting, is Arthur Askey, and there is no more moving speech from the stage than that of Crivelli's farewell. Clown Gavalda was seen doing lively work before he died in Southwark although I still sympathize with the little girl in the red dress who put her fingers in her ears while contending to smile very politely at the racket all round.

Michael Ratcliffe

The Sleeping Beauty

Covent Garden

Dancing Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* for the first time on Saturday afternoon at Covent Garden, Fiona Chudwick looked best in the vision scene, where she achieved a mixture of technical assurance and emotional expressiveness that made her solos speak the character's thoughts. There had been no lack of skill and confidence earlier in the ballet, but the

big adagio with her suitors at the birthday party was too much like a balancing act (marvellous balances, to be sure) with not much dramatic rapport.

For a debut, this was certainly promising, and her way of moving, with rounded arms and a more angular use of the legs, is apt to the duet and solo in the wedding scene. What must be hoped for in subsequent performances is not only a more consistent projection of the concept she obviously has, of the character developing

scene by scene, but also a more expansive treatment of some solos which this time she tended to skitter through in a bustling rush.

Derek Deane, as Florimund, gave her splendid support in the duets, but the involvement he generally brings to his roles seemed lacking, and his melancholy first solo stressed steps more than feeling. Nobody, I must say, was much helped by orchestral playing which often failed to cohere.

Sandra Conley is the happiest choice we have seen

Concerts

Music to cleanse a world in turmoil

Philharmonia/Tilson Thomas

St John's

The Philharmonia Orchestra's open rehearsal and performance under Michael Tilson Thomas offered two works. One was soft, the other loud; one was American, the other home-grown. The latter was *Everything Returns* by Jonathan Lloyd, using a vast orchestra. Inclusion of electric guitars and a brass-strung cittern provided a mild element of novelty, but much of this music was densely noisy.

It seemed characteristic that, although there was a soprano soloist, Hilary Weston, who bobbed up and down during the rehearsal, neither nor during the final complete performance could I often hear her. The law of diminishing returns comes swiftly into operation with the sort of composing. The very quiet American was Morton Feldman, his piece *The Viola in My Life IV*, wherein the excellent soloist was John Chambers. Here tension of a rather special kind rises not from a banal and unremitting assault on the listener's eardrums but from the fact that this music always hovers on the

edge of silence. An exquisite sense of tone colour and subtle textural contrasts was evident, yet one does wonder if the exquisite is not just a bit self-conscious. A main point about Mr Feldman's music and that of other American composers with whom he has been associated — above all, John Cage — is that there is no tradition behind it. Yet a piece such as *The Viola in My Life IV* could, I think, only have been written comparatively late in its century. Perhaps there is going to be a twentieth-century equivalent to the nineteenth-century *fin de siècle* aestheticism.

Such music attempts to heighten awareness of each individual sound, and in this one respect is comparable to Webern. The stillness maintained on Saturday night was nearly as much an achievement for the audience as for the performers, as we all listened as quietly as dutiful mice. And there is something cleansing about music like this. Perhaps one should even be encouraged that such works are written and played. Certainly anything which moves so consistently against the turmoil of the world seems like a positive act.

Max Harrison

Walton's well judged pictures in sound

ECO/Mackerras

Barbican Hall

What Sir Charles Mackerras conducted at his concert with the English Chamber Orchestra on Friday, with a repeat last night, could be called pictures at another exhibition. A programme using a vast orchestra, including electric guitars and a brass-strung cittern provided a mild element of novelty, but much of this music was densely noisy.

Frederick Ashton's 1940 *The Wise Virgins*, dances that relied quite a lot on the foolish virgins' dances, as well as to historical accounts. Scholars may purse their lips over the notion of orchestral Bach made from vocal cantatas, but Walton judged his effects to a nicety for their theatrical purpose without conducting the originals, achieving a musical pleasure in its own style.

The conductor, who in days gone by made two of the most successful contributions to this genre for John Crank in *Pineapple Poll* (Sullivan) and *The Lady and the Fool* (Verdi), shaped the six pieces with sensitivity as well as character. There

was no pussyfooting about them, and each was as stylish on its metrical feet as the dances themselves would be. Also evocative of their subjects were the two pieces for strings from Walton's film music for *Henry V* later in the programme.

Even though the *Duet Concertino* for clarinet and bassoon is not exactly the atypical, Richard Strauss let it be known that there were implications of Beauty and the Beast in his mind, but these seem to be lost quite soon in the lack of contrast between the writing for the two soloists. The orchestra's principals, Thea King and Graham Sheen, phasing their

parts with mellifluous enjoyment of this product of the composer's old age. His suite from *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*, composed and compiled some 30 years earlier, provides musical pictures of engaging transparency which shine in the hall's acoustical glow. They had little of the wry humour that is sometimes to be savoured, but there was a spirit of baroque formality, even in the succulent course of the dinner music, while Richard Adeney's flute and Neil Black's oboe were consistent delights throughout the programme.

Noël Goodwin

A passion for the English tradition

London Oriana

Choir/Lovett

This is the time of year when many a choir's fancy turns to the Passions of Bach. A day ahead of the Bach Choir's St Matthew, the London Oriana Choir's St John, conducted on Saturday by Leon Lovett, was the first of this year's South Bank crop, set in the middle of Lent. Is this a record?

I will ignore the English Baroque Orchestra's generally scrappy playing, probably due to rehearsal economies. And I will at least try

to forget, as mercifully the solo singers did, the abominable long-running dispute between the choir and Benjamin Kennard, and his supposed partner at the chamber organ, Charles Spinks, in which barely a chord was placed or sustained unanimously.

Instead let me praise, to begin with, the chorus, whose hundred voices were a shining advertisement for the state of the English amateur choral tradition, providing a taught skeleton for the sacred drama with their confidence in the two big choruses, their unsentimental chorales and their convincingly propagandistic

scenes. No matter that English longitudes could barely cope with the German equivalent of "Crucifixus" him, or that their savage mockery of Pilate lacked vehemence enough.

In the role of Evangelist, Neil Mackie responded to every nuance of Bach's fluid arioso-recitative, pacing the whole drama intelligently and sensitively, although the nobility of Brian Rayner Cook's Jesus reached the point of superfluity, however kind the voice. William Kendall's tenor was hard-edged, his music suffering from poor diction, although he tamed his natural aggression for his meditative

final aria. Peter Savidge's solo, though proved ideal for his litting aria with chorus, but the soprano Gillian Flinter sounded constrained and too innocent by far.

All of them, however, bowed low before Margaret Cable's superlative singing of the contralto aria "Es ist vollbracht" for me the work's emotional core. With Jane Ryan's mellow viola da gamba obbligato, Bach's melancholic sighing, surrounding a la Italianate Handel a central section of defiant optimism, was here rich, haunting, thoroughly sanctified.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

Warm evocation of northern humour

And a Nightingale Sang

Playhouse, Oxford

With its revival of C. P. Taylor's cheery, sentimental play about a Newcastle family during the Second World War, the Oxford Playhouse does more than a service to Taylor's memory. The real service is to the audiences who will see the show, who will be caught up in its warm-hearted evocation of northern humour and resilience, and of a lost unity of British spirit.

Taylor offers something more than wavering family

fortunes and nostalgic laughter in a story that stretches from the first air raid on Tyneside to the celebrations of VE Day. He lets the family's portrait be drawn to the narration of the elder daughter, the ugly duckling called "The Cripple" by the mother.

For Helen Stott, the character that Gabrielle Lloyd plays with such delectable, rueful charm, the story is "How Hitler Changed My Life". She blossoms through the love of a soldier, growing lovelier with each passing moment on the stage, but most of all she is growing wiser. It is not spoiling Taylor's design to mention that her lover turns

out to be a married man, for through his focus on each life, Taylor also unveils the hopes and fears of the war with its promise of a better world at the end. The story is told to make a better life, but even for the weak characters, with good performances from Sandra Voe, Holly de Jong and David Haig to give colour to their lives, there is somehow promise of reward through endurance.

Ned Chaillet

But Taylor's legacy is a generous one, and when the narration is so affectionately phrased, both in the writing and Miss Lloyd's playing, it

Dance

lately to play the Queen, especially to so young a daughter. Most of the solo roles were given to the Royal Ballet's young hopefuls, generally to good effect. Nicola Roberts especially shone in the Golden Vire solo, and the graciousness of Deirdre Eydens's Lilac Fairy, the fluency (but not the *entrechats*) of Philip Broomhead's Bluebird and the bright-eyed fun of Elizabeth Morgan's Red Riding Hood deserve particular mention.

John Percival



"Outstanding new play" FINANCIAL TIMES
QUEEN'S THEATRE



Ingvar Wixell, a heavyweight greedy Scarpia

Progress of legislation

Stock-Exchange Prices Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End April 16. \$ Contango Day, April 19. Settlement Day, April 26

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

Dull end

The equity market was dull on Friday, with the FT 100 rising 1.4 points to 3,229.5. The FT 100 rose 1.4 points to 3,229.5, with the exception of a few issues, where prices were up. The FT 100 rose 1.4 points to 3,229.5, with the exception of a few issues, where prices were up.

Government

The Government is expected to announce a new package of measures to support the economy. The Government is expected to announce a new package of measures to support the economy.

1983 sales

The 1983 sales of the company are expected to be around £100 million. The 1983 sales of the company are expected to be around £100 million.

ACC board favours TV

The ACC board has decided to favour TV. The ACC board has decided to favour TV.

BSC jobs rise

BSC jobs are expected to rise. BSC jobs are expected to rise.

THE

Knock

The knock is expected to be around £100 million. The knock is expected to be around £100 million.

LONDON EXCHANGE

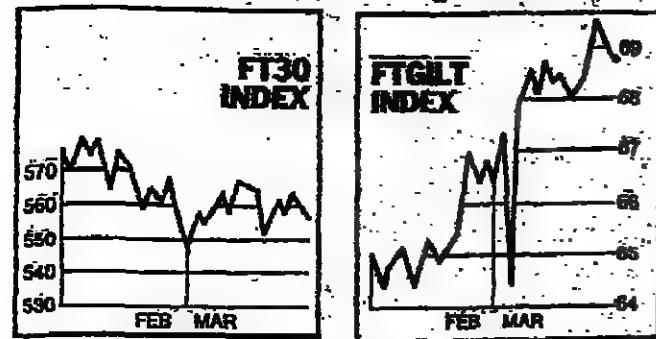
FT index 557.7
FT 100 68.68
FT all share 323.0
Sterling 22.90
(Friday's close)

ECONOMIC

The economic situation is expected to be around £100 million. The economic situation is expected to be around £100 million.

BUSINESS NEWS

Dull end for equities



The equity market ended the financial year on a dull note. It fell from 572.0 at the beginning of February to last Friday's close of 557.7, a net 14.9 compared with the 60.95 rise in January. The Budget made no impact with the exception of sectors such as construction. In gills, however, where attention was focussed on index-linked issues open to everyone, the Gills Index rose in February from 64.65 to 68.69.

Government Spends more

Spending by the Government on goods and services, has greatly outstripped that by local authorities, according to a briefing published today by Wood Mackenzie, the stockbrokers. This shows that council spending after adjusting for inflation, fell by more than 2 per cent between 1979 and 1981 while central government spending rose by 7.5 per cent. The biggest increases were in defence and the National Health Service. Next year, central government spending would rise by 8.5 per cent, twice as fast as that by councils.

1983 salary boom forecast

Professional and executive staff salary increases will be cut to between 6 and 8 per cent in the next 12 months but should rise by more than the rate of inflation in the 1983 pay round because of increased productivity, according to a report by Reward Regional Surveys. The average for the next 12 months will disguise increases of more than 15 per cent for scarce staff such as high-technology engineers.

ACC board favours TWV

The board of Associated Communications Corporation, including the three latest recruits, Sir Michael Clapham, Mr Michael Edwards and Mr George Preston, are recommending that shareholders accept the offer made by TWV Enterprise, Mr Robert Holmes a Court's company. Details are set out in a document released today to shareholders on the TWV offer.

BSC jobs risk

At least 500 more jobs may be lost in Corby, where the British Steel Corporation made more than 5,000 employees redundant over two years. After a mass meeting of BSC workers at the weekend, Mr Roy Bishop, divisional officer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "We are aware of about 500 jobs being at risk, and that number could double as the corporation reduces manning levels." The corporation said it employs approximately 4,000 staff at its tube plant in Corby.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Knocking off the gloss

While Amersham International shares have around 200p, the share price has been knocked off the gloss of the Government's first privatization exercise, British Aerospace, whose shares languish close to the level they opened at after last year's flotation.

But final figures due on Tuesday should see the prospectus forecast of £65m comfortably met, with market expectations of around £70m pre-tax.

A major breakthrough would be a decision by the United States Congress to approve the Hawk — a trainer aircraft which could generate orders of up to £300m.

There is also the possibility of involvement in the proposed A-320 European Airbus through its 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie, Aerospace, already builds the wings for the larger A-300 and A-310 Airbus, but the A-320 plan requires Government approval.

Last month also saw the go-ahead given for the Sea Eagle, an air-launched missile to be installed on the RAF's Buccaneer and the Royal Navy's Sea Harrier fighters, with the contract worth around £200m to British Aerospace.

Croda International's fight against Burnal, 20 in the long and hard takeover battle could be vindicated this week.

Final results due on Wednesday will give some indication of whether Croda is on target for the £16m pre-tax in the current year forecast by the board, with expectations of around £10m.

Croda expanded and diversified rapidly up to the mid 1970s.

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 557.7
FT Gills 68.69
FT all share 323.0
Bargains 22.902
(Friday's close)

ECONOMIC VIEW

Tuesday sees publication of the Department of Employment's monthly Gazette, with the latest figures on strikes, overtime and short time working and employment changes in industry. Of special interest will be the productivity statistics for the final quarter of 1981. They are expected to show continued rapid improvement.

On Wednesday, the Central Statistical Office releases national income and expenditure figures for the final quarter and year 1981. Attention is likely to focus on what has happened to people's real after-tax incomes, how much they are saving and how company profits have behaved outside North Sea oil operations.

Friday's figures for March's official gold and currency reserves will provide some indication of Bank of England intervention in the currency markets to steady the pound.

CBI predicts modest rise in output

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Industry's order books are beginning to fill out after the battering from the recession and output could show some modest rise, according to the latest survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

The Government will undoubtedly seize on the latest monthly trends inquiry conducted among nearly 2,000 companies — at least half of whom would have been aware of the "Business Budget" measures when they completed their returns as supporting its claims that industry is beginning to move out of the recession which has taken such a heavy toll.

According to the latest survey 39 per cent of companies described them as "above normal" with the

majority, 51 per cent, still reporting "below normal" levels. Although the majority of companies are still suffering from a lack of demand, the picture, said the CBI, is distinctly better than a few months ago and pointed to a continued improvement in manufacturing industry's demand.

Although the CBI has hedged its interpretation on the side of caution, they are considered to be the best for two years and provide support for the Government's forecasts that manufacturing industry output is likely to rise by about 3 per cent this year.

Questioned about the likely trend of output over the next four months, 21 per cent of companies said that they expected an increase,

with 17 per cent anticipating a fall, while 62 per cent expected their production to remain at about the same level. CBI economists believe that such a pattern is unlikely to be associated with a marked rise in output over the period although a "very modest increase" could take place.

Stocks of finished goods have been reduced, in part reflecting the impact of high interest rates which have only recently eased back.

The most encouraging feature for the Government to emerge from the survey is the movement of industry's prices with only 37 per cent of companies expecting to lift their average prices over the next four months.

Co-op hits back in battle of the banks

by Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The Co-operative Bank is aiming to increase its number of customers from one million to five million in the next decade through expansion of banking in Co-op shops. This new shot in the battle with the big clearers follows initiatives on free banking and interest-bearing current accounts. If the near-180 retail societies agree, Co-op Bank's recruitment of customers could be up by half next year.

Banking could bring the societies more customers,



Terry Thomas: not unhappy

badly needed as their share of the grocery market declines.

The development programme also aims to meet criticisms over the level of commission paid by the bank for handling cheques. A row earlier this year resulted in the Ileson society having its banking agency removed.

Expulsion has gained new urgency after the rebuff by the big clearing banks to the Co-op request for them to cash cheques for customers using interest-bearing current accounts.

These accounts are operated by First Co-operative Finance, which has only one office. The clearers turned down the request because their customers could not be offered the same facilities by First Co-op.

Strengthening the retailing society's clearing network could help offset the big clearers' snub.

Mr Terry Thomas, Co-op Bank's joint general manager, said: "We are not too unhappy about not being into the big clearing with First Co-op cheques. It leaves us free to consider other moves such as bringing in First Co-op bank guarantee cards covering up to £100."

Co-op Bank sees some expansion, probably to about 100, of its chain of more than 70 branches. But it favours in-store banking with longer opening hours.

Options offered to retail societies could slightly reduce the 1,000 full-service branches because of the introduction of a clearing system offering a paying-in service but avoiding charges.

National Girobank is negotiating to use the Co-op Bank's spare clearing facilities for its cheques.

ICI PLANT FACES BIG CUTS

Britain's plastic and petrochemicals industry is preparing for sizable cuts in the week in which Mr John Harvey-Jones takes over as chairman of ICI.

The group's fourth quarter figures released earlier this month showed it was still trading at a loss after a year in which the plastics and petrochemicals division had lost £54m compared with £79m the year before.

Mr Harvey-Jones cannot be expected to put up with such losses in areas like PVC production and ICI's Wilton plant may face severe pruning.

BP Chemicals is in an even worse position sustained only by its parent's massive oil profits. Mr Robert Gifford, managing director of BP Chemicals, is expected to wield his axe soon, with the Grangemouth petrochemical plant a prime candidate.

Price rise could hit shoe sales

By Our Commercial Editor

British footwear manufacturers are pushing up the price of shoes despite fears that it might hit the flagging retail sales.

In January, prices charged by the manufacturers jumped nearly 2 per cent over the previous year, and were more than 4 per cent up on a year before.

The new prices are expected to show up soon at the retail level because retailers have little margin for manoeuvre.

There is another danger in the price increases: imports which jumped 19 per cent in the last quarter of 1981 compared with the same period last year, could be drawn in faster than ever.

Imports by volume now account for nearly 48 per cent of supplies to the British market.

The only consolation for the British makers is that prices of Italian footwear, the key competitor against British makers, are also rising.

According to Mr Nicholas Calvert, secretary of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation.

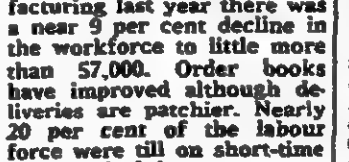
Constant price-cutting at the retail level makes consumers reluctant to buy without a price concession, the federation says in its quarterly review. This is why the federation is worried that sales could be hit when consumers shop prices.

Increases in leather prices, up more than 46 per cent at the end of last year compared with the year before, have hit the British footwear makers.

Leather accounts for at least 25 per cent of all costs in making footwear. Non-leather materials prices have been steadier, showing a rise during last year of 4 per cent.

In British footwear manufacturing last year there was a near 9 per cent decline in the workforce to little more than 57,000. Order books have improved although demand is patchier. Nearly 20 per cent of the labour force were on short-time at the end of the year.

HOW ARE COSTS FINDING?



LEATHER 1975-100 NON-LEATHER 1975-100

JANUARY 1981

226 224 222 220 218 216 214 212 210 208 206 204 202 200 198 196 194 192 190 188 186 184 182 180 178 176 174 172 170 168 166 164 162 160 158 156 154 152 150 148 146 144 142 140 138 136 134 132 130 128 126 124 122 120 118 116 114 112 110 108 106 104 102 100 98 96 94 92 90 88 86 84 82 80 78 76 74 72 70 68 66 64 62 60 58 56 54 52 50 48 46 44 42 40 38 36 34 32 30 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 0

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Sale expected of Stone Platt offshoot to US

By Margaret Pagano

The sale of the loss-making Platt Saco Lowell subsidiary of Stone-Platt Industries, the textile machinery group which collapsed 10 days ago is expected to be announced today.

Bill Mackey, the receiver appointed by Midland Bank, will be outlining to the 1,000 employees this morning the future of the division's main works at Accrington, Lancashire.

A deal is understood to have been struck for the sale of the textile machinery division to John D. Hollinsworth on Wheels the United States textile group. The sum is believed to be fractionally lower than the £12.5m agreed by PSL just before the banks closed their support and Stone-Platt collapsed only a year after the last rescue operation.

However, it is understood that plans hinge on a number of redundancies. PSL also employs 1,250 people in the United States and 500 in Spain but no details are known yet about these activities.

In the last three years, operations in Lancashire have been dramatically reduced with the Oldham plant closed in 1980 and the Bolton factory shut in July last year.

COMMODITIES

Tin: will the nettle be firmly grasped?

When the European Community agreed a week ago to sign the treaty for the sixth International Tin Agreement, the chances of the pact coming into effect were greatly increased. But this week also sees a renewed meeting of the International Tin Council, the agreement's governing body, at which the uncomfortable nettle of export controls may be grasped. If the ITA is born again, it will be into a world quite different from that in which the treaty was negotiated.

But first will the ITA receive enough signatures? The 10 members of the EEC account for about 27 per cent of world tin consumption. The agreement needs countries taking 65 per cent of imports to sign by April 30 if the starting date of July 1 is to be met. The rest of the world accounts for about 73 per cent, including the EEC.

Put that way, it does not sound as though there is far to go. But the problem is that most of those likely to sign have already done so — with the exception of the Eastern block, especially the Soviet Union. The United States, which consumes about one third of the world's tin output, has refused to join, so every other vote counts.

The diplomatic pressure is mounting on the Eastern block to join. Although the Soviet Union had reservations about the 6.85 per cent increase in the intervention price agreed in Kuala Lumpur last October, it is equally conscious of the propaganda value of appearing to champion developing countries, the more so since the United States General Services Administration has been vilified by tin producers for "dumping" tin and allegedly depressing prices.

My hunch is that the ITA will scrape together just enough votes by the end of April. Britain and Germany were reported at the beginning of last week to be signing on the condition that the agreement not be used to "manipulate" the market, a patent reference to recent events on the London Metal Exchange. But the Malaysians were quick to point out that no conditions were permissible, and British officials indicated that they just wanted to record the state of mind in which the agreement was being signed.

Michael Prest

Jonathan Davis explains the controversy over a crucial part of the energy Bill

The slow escape of gas from state control



● Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy: the government's Bill has so far received a cool response from private companies. Some industrialists doubt if it will have any significant impact for at least ten years.

Introducing competition into the £1500m a year industrial gas market is not proving quite as easy an exercise as Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, must have hoped when he first announced his plans last autumn to end more than 30 years of state monopoly gas supplies.

With the end of the committee stage of his controversial Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill last week, Mr Lawson is virtually certain to have this major piece of legislation on the statute books by the summer. As well as paving the way for the sale of shares in the British National Oil Corporation, the Bill makes it possible for the first time for gas producers in the North Sea to sell their product direct to large industrial consumers on the mainland.

At the moment all gas in Britain is by law bought, transmitted and marketed by the state-owned British Gas Corporation, a state of affairs that will remain unchanged for the domestic gas market. But while it has been the BNOC sell-off which has captured most of the headlines, nobody in the energy field is in any doubt that the Bill's gas clauses are the ones with the greatest potential impact on the shape and cost of Britain's future energy supplies.

The paradox is that the Bill has so far received a distinctly cool response from the very private sector companies which could be expected to benefit most from the ending of the monopoly — and which indeed have long pressed for the market to be opened up in the way Mr Lawson is now proposing. On one side are the oil companies, which now have the opportunity to develop offshore gas worth thousands of millions of pounds which they claim has had to be left in the ground until now as a result of the refusal of British Gas to pay a decent price for supplies.

But far from leaping about with joy, the companies sent a delegation to the Millbank headquarters of the Department of Energy earlier this month to warn Mr Lawson and his officials that the Bill, as proposed, could turn out to be a dead letter.

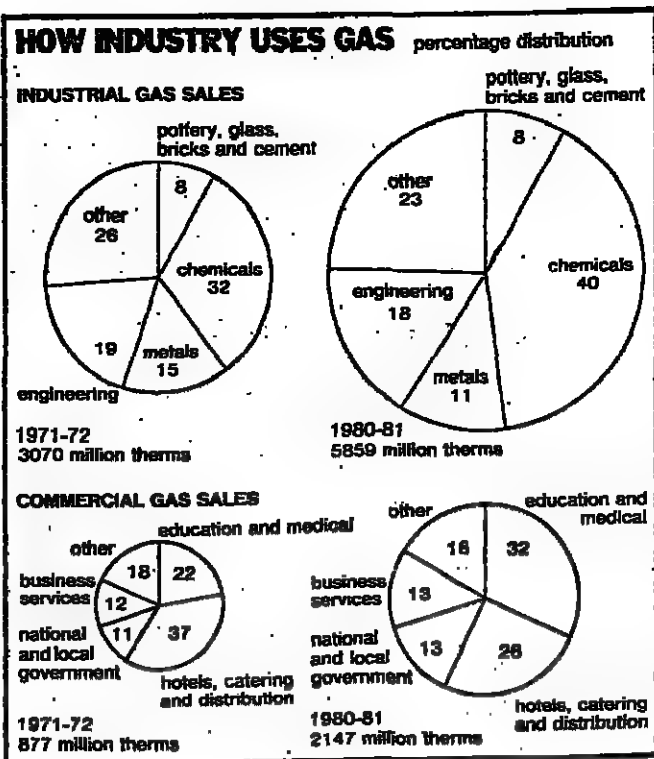
The response from industrial consumers has been more positive but still muted. Big firms in key areas of manufacturing industry such as chemicals, steel and paper have generally welcomed anything that gives them an alternative to dealing with the tough and (some claim) arrogant and insensitive negotiators from British Gas.

But in private, many industrialists doubt whether the freer market will have any significant impact for at least ten years. They worry whether switching from dealing with British Gas to a combination of large international oil companies will be anything other than jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. They are also not convinced that it will mean lower gas prices.

What has gone wrong? The reality is that there is a ready market for private sector gas, and large reserves of gas offshore available to be developed to meet this demand. But there are enormous problems of logistics and of price to be overcome before the two can be matched up, and it is not clear whether the government has done enough — or really has the political will — to ensure that they are.

The existing market for industrial gas is already big business. In the 1980/81 financial year, British Gas's sales to industry amounted to 5,559m thermals worth £1100m. Sales to hotels, schools and other so-called commercial users, a few of which could possibly be interested in private gas deals, accounted for another 2,147m thermals worth £561m. Although the recession has eaten into gas sales, the market is potentially even bigger than it looks, since British Gas, with the support of the government, has consistently confined its sales to what it calls "premium" uses, those for which gas, as a relatively clean and flexible fuel, is particularly suited.

Specifically this covers general industrial processing, but excludes steam raising and bulk heating, for which mundane purposes coal and oil are just as good. The argument behind this policy is that it is wasteful to use finite supplies of gas for purposes for which other fuels are readily available. If the government was now prepared to let the oil companies into the non-premium market, it would be much more interested in private gas sales. Whether the government is prepared to do this is far less clear.



largely since the government has decreed that any gas fields found since 1975 must bear the same onerous taxes as North Sea oil discoveries. This means an average tax take over the life of the field of about 75 per cent.

Before they can justify spending £500 to £600m on developing a new field, they must be reasonably sure that they can sell the gas in large enough quantities, to protect their investment.

In present conditions, this is a daunting task, say the companies. They will still have to compete with British Gas which has the benefit of all the gas from the early North Sea fields used up under unexpired long-term contracts.

Given the de facto grip of British Gas on the gas market through its established marketing and distribution system, the companies fear that the state corporation will always be able to undercut them.

Given that the oil companies will have to band together to produce enough gas to meet such industrial demand as they get, the fear of many consumers is that their future suppliers will be just as tough a nut to crack as British Gas. On top of that, the oil companies, with only one or two fields at their disposal, will find it difficult to provide the uninterrupted supplies that British Gas, with its control of the whole network, offers many of its customers now. It does not add up to quite the rosy picture that many private sector firms originally hoped for.

The oil companies say they are unlikely, under the present Bill, to gain more than 20 per cent of the industrial gas market, and that not until the 1990s. Government officials concede that there will be no major impact for several years, but say this is not surprising. Oil companies are being asked to enter a market which has been served exclusively (in one form or another) by state monopoly corporations since the 1940s, so progress is bound to be slow.

Business Editor

Could a banking crisis happen again?

Greed and fear have not been abolished from the financial community (or the hearts of men) since the secondary banking crisis of 1973/74. There is a saying in the City that past successes are remembered and failures forgotten, and Margaret Reid's book on the crisis, excerpts of which appeared in *The Times* last week, is a timely warning to a new generation of bankers.

But could the events of the middle seventies reoccur, and in a much darker form? Just this month the deputy governor of the Bank of England sounded a strong warning to banks to be more careful in their international lending at a time when British banks have loaned more than £1,000m to Poland and Sir Freddie Laker has gone bankrupt owing over £200m to Western banks.

Again, bankers have met much criticism for keeping Stone-Platt alive for a year, despite the company's worsening problems, before calling in a receiver.

So banking prudence is being questioned once more. But it is important to realise the conditions under which the property market and the secondary banking sector operated between 1971 and 1975.

The government document *Competition and Credit Control* opened up a laissez-faire climate in which calculator cowboys, he they were, were free to do as they pleased. Government and the clearing banks lost a degree of caution in the estimable pursuit of growth. Accounting standards were haphazard, enabling balance sheets to be "window-dressed" and directors' interests and loans concealed.

All this and more led to the creation of paper pyramids which were blown down by the tighter credit policies imposed by the Heath Government in the wake of the first oil crisis in the autumn of 1973.

Since the Bank of England launched the secondary bank "lifeboat", there have been several major moves undertaken to ensure there is no repeat of a crisis which threatened the whole structure of British banking at the stage.

The Bank of England's own supervisory department was strengthened, quarterly returns from banks were demanded, with details of the loan book, capital and reserve ratios and contingent liabilities a

since qua non for official approval. The Banking Act 1979 gave the Bank of England's emergency techniques a legal basis, and a controversial discussion paper on bank liquidity, which followed in 1980, is close to producing new prudential requirements.

Accounting standards are still in the long process of being harmonized under the aegis of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies. The Companies Act 1980 required that loans to directors be disclosed in annual accounts. And a 1975 directive from the Bank of England that banks ought to give priority to industrial and commercial lending instead of the property and financial sectors has been reinforced several times over.

But while strenuous efforts have been made to avoid a repetition of 1973 and the British banking sector has been brought under tighter control by the authorities, there will always be risk associated with lending on a massive scale.

One can perhaps glean some reassurance from the way America has managed to contain a potential financial crisis that has been threatened from a lengthy period of high interest rates.

But the fears undoubtedly remain of the unexpected happening to upset the system. When the international banks have been able to handle countries rescheduling in a reasonably orderly fashion, the possibility of, say, a chance combination that saw the collapse of a couple of major multinational companies in quick succession is one that sends the shivers down most bankers' spines.

The dollar strengthened considerably at the end of last week as American interest rates remained fairly firm and markets took the view that it was better to be in the dollar than out of it. The dollar is generally expected to be an awkward money supply in April. Much of the worry stems from the timing of the large security payments at the start of the month and the view that the Treasury are likely to swell the money supply figures because of the lack of a proper seasonal adjustment. The extent of the "inflation" should be apparent with the figures published on April 16.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Credit	13 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	13 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 10 1/2%
£10,000 and over 11 1/2%
£10,000 and over 11 1/2%

BROKERS' VIEWS

Prospects in merchant banks

Financial markets are still absorbing the full effects of the Budget, and the suggested reactions from Hoare, Vickers, according to David Butler at Greaveson, Grant and Co. could provide merchant banks with a large amount of business in 1982/3. The group has centred on four major business areas, to be conducted on a world-wide basis — these are cars, marine engineering, tanks, and lithography. So, if sales are successful, the group could provide its cash-flow requirements internally over the next couple of years.

Tube Investments, according to Greaveson, now looks able to continue its recovery in relative performance, following the success in the domestic appliance division, and the turnaround on cycles. A different view on Tube Investment from Henry Cooke, Lumsden is for a pretax profit of £15m for 1982 and for £40m for 1983. The Manchester broker goes for £24m and a rating of 8.8 for Turner and Newall.

Sally White

MARKET ROUND-UP

Wall Street spurt divides the experts

An agreement between General Motors and the United Auto Workers union helped Wall Street to rally last week, with the Dow Jones industrial closing 12.27 points higher at 817.92.

Most of that rally came on Monday when the market advanced almost 14 points after news of the GM agreement.

Prices generally rose during the week then fell 9.71 points on Friday. The decline was caused in part by investor fears that the money supply would show a large rise, which might in turn lead to higher interest rates. In the event, M1 rose by only \$500m on the week.

A warning from petroleum producing countries that Western oil companies might be blacklisted if they reduced their purchases of Nigerian oil also depressed prices.

BRUSSELS

Belgian investors are becoming increasingly confident the government's policy of standing firm on a platform of public austerity and encouraging free enterprise is beginning to pay dividends.

The stock exchange moved up steadily over the past week with trading particularly active on Friday despite the general strike that had been called for that day.

The Firm stance with its emphasis on curbing wage increases, promises to boost industry profits while tax incentives are available to encourage investors into equities.

AUSTRALIA

The sale of 29.5 per cent of RDC Holdings to Ascot Holdings in Sydney was the only thing to enliven a sliding national sharemarket on Friday.

Property Trust and 25 per cent each by Industrial Equity and General Investments, lifted its bid from \$A2.5 to \$A3.5 a share.

SINGAPORE

Firmness in the stock market peaked midweek as a string of modest advances was reversed. The final three sessions left the indices level or with slight declines. The Straits Times index closed on Friday at 723.87, a loss of 3.06 points on the day but a gain of 12 1/2 points for the week.

HONGKONG

The market remained in the doldrums during a week marked by a lack of buying interest. Shrugging off an intermittent rally the Hang Seng index closed 19 points down at 1188.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT BOND	Price	Yield	CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Price	Yield
Alcan Standard 1982	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1982	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1983	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1983	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1984	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1984	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1985	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1985	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1986	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1986	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1987	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1987	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1988	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1988	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1989	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1989	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1990	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1990	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1991	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1991	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1992	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1992	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1993	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1993	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1994	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1994	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1995	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1995	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1996	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1996	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1997	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1997	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 1998	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 1998	103	6.74
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Alcan Standard 2009	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2009	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2010	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2010	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2011	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2011	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2012	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2012	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2013	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2013	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2014	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2014	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2015	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2015	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2016	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2016	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2017	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2017	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2018	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2018	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2019	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2019	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2020	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2020	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2021	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2021	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2022	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2022	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2023	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2023	103	6.74
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Alcan Standard 2027	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2027	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2028	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2028	103	6.74
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Alcan Standard 2030	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2030	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2031	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2031	103	6.74
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Alcan Standard 2061	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2061	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2062	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2062	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2063	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2063	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2064	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2064	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2065	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2065	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2066	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2066	103	6.74
Alcan Standard 2067	100	13.88	Alcan Standard 2067	103	6.74

Flying high at the greatest show on earth

By Michael Seely

professional from Holfiwell, n
Nottingham, completed - 632

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IN BRIEF

Celts take control

Leicester
By Mike
2.15 Leandros, 2.45 I-Ching, 3.1
Voyant, 4.45 Mou-Fern-Ytchi.
By Our Newsm
2.15 My Scotch Arms, 2.45 Buckto
Turbulence, 4.45 Smallboy.

Leicester

selections

West, 7 Francisco. B Zaccaro, 10 Azu, 17 others.

Skytrain Jets

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Lee

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Science and Belief. Lord Kelvin's Clock. 7.05 Mathematics, Models and Methods. Resonance and Damping. 7.30 Classical Greece 478-336BC. The Theatre. 7.55 Closedown. 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Linda Alexander. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial Report and news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Paddy Hill at One welcomes Carol White back to Britain and the stage to appear in "Steaming" by Neil Dunge, who wrote her first big film, "Poor Cow". 1.45 Trumpton. Narrated by Brian Cant (r). 2.00 Men v Women Golf: Nancy Lopez-Melton and Sally Little against Severiano Ballesteros and Greg Norman. 2.25 Songs of the Bachelors. 3.15 Songs of the Bachelors (repeated). (r). 3.33 Regional news (except London).

3.55 Play School: Five Seagulls (shown earlier on BBC 2).

4.20 Secret Squirrel. Cartoon.

4.25 Jackanory. Rula Lenska reads a Polish folk tale.

4.40 Scooby and Scrappy Doo: Cartoons.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround.

5.05 Blue Peter. How to transplant a fully-grown tree. And how London Zoo's first elephant, Jumbo, was killed by a train in America.

5.30 The Parthenon. (r).

5.40 News. Weather. With Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six.

6.25 Nationwide. Includes the weekly "Watchdog" report.

6.55 Doctor Who: Time-Flight, pt 3.

7.20 Bret Maverick. James Garner, as the veteran cowboy, is reminded of his murky past.

8.10 Panorama. Jeremy Paxman, in socialist Nicaragua, investigates White House claims that El Salvador guerrillas are finding shelter there (the fear is another "Bay of Pigs" confrontation) plus Liberal leader David Steel in the studio, to discuss the Glasgow Hillhead by-election result.

9.00 News. Weather with John Humphreys.

9.25 Film: Cagney and Lacey (1981) Not, as the title might suggest, another of those recycled "star" film seasons of which the BBC is so fond, but more in the line of "Star Trek" and "Hill Street Blues". Only the episode "The Last Days of Pompeii" is new, the others are repeats of the original series. This is a musical reflection by Marian Montgomery and husband Laurie Holloway, comes to television with a new twist. The film is a musical in the style of the Captain Beaky illustrations and the rich voices of Miss Montgomery, Michael Hordern, Myra Dorn Porter, Jenny Agutter and John Clive.

11.00 Film 82. Actress Marie Aiken begins her three-week audition as the new Barry Norman by reviewing Victor, Victoria (Julie Andrews as a woman pretending to be a man in drag) and Fassbinder's latest, Lola. Plus a location report on Dennis Potter's film of Brimstone and Treacle, banned as a play by the BBC.

11.28 News headlines.

11.30 The Computer Programme. Chris Serie in praise of new technology (r).

11.55 Weather and close.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University: M101/6 Rational Numbers and V2. 7.05 Man-powered Aircraft. 7.30 Classical Greece 478-336BC. The Theatre. 7.55 Closedown. 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Linda Alexander. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial Report and news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Paddy Hill at One welcomes Carol White back to Britain and the stage to appear in "Steaming" by Neil Dunge, who wrote her first big film, "Poor Cow". 1.45 Trumpton. Narrated by Brian Cant (r). 2.00 Men v Women Golf: Nancy Lopez-Melton and Sally Little against Severiano Ballesteros and Greg Norman. 2.25 Songs of the Bachelors. 3.15 Songs of the Bachelors (repeated). (r). 3.33 Regional news (except London).

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11.55 Weather and close.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 Cartoon Time. 9.35 Animal Insights: Sighthounds village life. 10.00 Mysteries of Indigo: The Shrike. 10.25 Film: The Terrors (1987). British science fiction with Simon Dutton, Patricia Hayes and Charles Hawtrey against the aliens. 11.25 Point Along with Nancy. 11.55 The Bubbles. 12.00 Cockleshell Bay. 12.10 Rainbow. 12.30 That's the Way: Consumer advice on contracts and obligations. 1.00 News. 1.20 Themes News. 1.30 About Britain: Naturalist Tom Weir tours Scotland by foot. 2.00 Money-Go-Round: Consumer series looks back over the year. 2.30 Film: The Captain's Table (1958). Cargo ship captain John Gregson is suddenly elevated to the bridge of a luxury liner. Peggy Cummins, Donald Sinden, Reginald Beckwith, Richard Wattis and Joan Sims add support.

4.15 Dr Snuggles. Cartoon.

4.20 Graham's Art. Advice on ferrets.

4.45 Murphy's Mob. The young soccer club supporters search for their missing dog.

5.15 Mr and Mrs. Marital quiz show.

5.45 News. 6.00 Themes News.

6.25 Help! Three-part exposé on lead poisoning begins with the risks of still birth, hyperactivity and lowered IQ in children subjected to car fumes.

6.35 Crocodiles. Sharon is worried about Crocodiles.

7.00 Nature Watch. Academics Ron Stecker and Tom Harvey engage in unorthodox battle to save the Giant Sequoia trees of California.

7.30 Coronation Street. Gail wants husband Brian home, not in Cairo with the lads.

8.00 Dead Ernest. He campaigns to open up the party gates to past. Andrew Sachs stars in comedy comedy, ending here.

8.30 World in Action: Irish Lessons. Unusually optimistic report from Northern Ireland produces statistics to show that children there generally do better at school than children on the mainland, despite the troubles.

Radio 4

6.00 News. 6.30 Today. 6.45 The Week On 4. 6.55 Glynis Wynne. 7.00 Start. The Week With Richard Baker. 7.15 News. 7.30 Money Box. 7.45 Start. 7.55 Morning Story. 8.00 News. 8.15 Down Your Way. 8.30 Postscript. 8.45 You and Yours. 8.55 The World Tonight. 9.00 News. 9.15 The World At One. 9.30 The Archers. 9.45 News. 9.55 Women's Hour. 10.00 News. 10.15 Afternoon Bridge. 10.30 Start From A Bridge. 10.45 Story Time. 11.00 PM. 11.15 News. 11.30 I Haven't A Clue. 11.45 News. 11.55 The Archers. 12.00 Start The Week With Richard Baker. 12.15 News. 12.30 Science Now. 12.45 Book At Bedtime. 12.55 The World Tonight. 1.00 News. 1.15 Today in Parliament. 1.30 News. 1.45 Weather. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 3.55 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 4.55 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 News. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 6.55 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 7.55 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 8.55 News. 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